



異世界魔王と 召喚少女の 奴隷魔術

The King of
Darkness Another
World Story

ILLUST. 鶴崎貴大

むしむしかのきいや

6

Isekai Maou to Shoukan Shoujo Dorei Majutsu

Vol.6

by Yukiya Murasaki

Info: [Novel Updates](#)

Translation: [Isekai Soul-Cyborg Translations](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)



Lamnites' breathing was lively. 「Fuu, fuu.....How is it?」



「……なにをバカな。
わたしのは、動きやすい装備、というものです。
シェラの無駄肉のほうが、よっぽど卑猥です」



「レムなんて、
裸みたいな格好
してるもんね!」

「For Rem, she has an appearance that looks like she's naked after all!」「..... What stupid thing are you saying. What I have is something called "easy-to-move-in equipment". Shera, your useless meat is much more obscene.」



突き出したお尻が露になった。
黒い紐みたいな下着で、ギリギリ隠れているけれど、本当にギリギリだ。

「ふあ!？」

「マスター……このまま……
お願い申し上げます、
背面立位で」

Her stuck out butt became exposed. Although the important parts were just

barely concealed with underwear that looked like black string, it really was just barely. 「Fuah!?!」 「Master.....Just like this.....If you would please, stand behind me.」

Prologue

Part 1

Disaster, war, crime.....

It seems that while being often warned about such dangers, many people think that they alone would be able to elude them.

They believe that outrageous difficulty would not befall upon their own lives. However, disaster sometimes comes.

Inescapable situations can occur without any significant reason even to virtuous, hardworking, unselfish, and humble people and to able-bodied, cautious, and wise people.

Bad luck—

It is possible for life to be stolen by something unreasonable that could only be called bad luck.

Zircon Tower City, which was located in the former Demon King territory, was abruptly met with an unreasonable risk of destruction without any sort of logical connections.

The Demon King was revived in who knows where, and a newly formed Demon King Army had come to invade it.

The evacuation of the citizens was delayed, the army that should have defended them was defeated, and it seemed as though a massive killing was inescapable.

They were in a desperate situation with no escape.

However, the town could be saved. It was because with Diablo having defeated the Demon King Army's commanding officer, the war situation was reversed. They were saved!

The town continued their revelry until late into the night by this miracle.

Even though the war happened at noon, and the people were probably completely exhausted, the hustle and bustle did not settle down even once the date had changed.

They're so noisy that I can't sleep—is what Diablo thought.

However, that just showed that they were that delighted.....

And after thinking about the outcome that he had brought about, he did not feel bad about it.

"Well, it's great that we were able to protect them."

Diablo dived onto the bed.

Having their work evaluated, the inn that the Feudal Lord had prepared for them was of the highest grade in Zircon Tower City.

Amazingly, it was a bed that used springs. Going *kii kii*, it creaked.

"So soft."

Since it was a single person room, Diablo muttered that as his original self. The young Pantherian girl Rem, the runaway Elven princess Shera, the High Chief Priest Lumachina, and the Grasswalker Horun (12 years old). These girls were in their own separate rooms.

Since it seemed like the Magimatic Maid Rose would go through the floor, she did not stay in the inn.

Since she could not sleep outdoors, only Rose returned to his base, the 《Demon King's Underground Labyrinth》.

Due to Diablo having destroyed a majority of the traps, the restoration of those and a guard of the Treasury were needed.

And so, right now, he was alone—

It has been a while since this happened.

It felt like his voice hit the walls.

Before he was summoned to this other world, he was always alone.

Spreading out both arms on the large bed without any reserve, it felt liberating.....a bit lonely.....

Going *fuwawah*, he yawned.

Outside, a chorus started for the nth time. He didn't know if it was the national anthem or a war song, but it felt as though he would learn the melody of it soon. Even with it being that boisterous, drowsiness had come.

Both his HP and MP had recovered with potions, but it seemed that fatigue had accumulated from the series of battles over the past few days.

Diablo closed his eyes. His consciousness sunk into a mire.

Don don!

A sound different from the noise outside occurred from nearby.

He realized that the door was knocked on.

Making a short pause, he consciously took Demon King-like behavior. In order to hide his original self.....

He talked with a voice that was as low as possible for him.

"Ku ku ku.....To disturb my slumber, who goes there?"

Diablo had difficulty talking with people. He was super bad with talking with women in particular. Words would stop coming out whenever he exposed his original self.

That is why he masqueraded with the Demon King-like attitude that he performed in the game. Thanks to that, he was just barely able to converse with his surroundings.

He did feel that unnecessary trouble occurred due to his Demon King role play though.....

Since he would become unable to say anything other than "Ah—" or "Uh—" whenever his original self tried to talk, it couldn't be helped.

A voice came from the other side of the door.

"It is I (yo). It would be favorable if you have awakened, for I wish to talk with you."

—Yo!?

He was sure that it would be Rem or Shera or any of his other companions, but it wasn't any of their voices. It was a much more adult woman.

He only knew of one person that referred to themselves as “yo” in this town. However, that person had a high position.

Would she come to a single room of an inn late at night?

While being half in doubt, Diablo got off of the bed and undid the room's lock. He opened the door.

Someone wearing a black robe stood there.

The face that he could see inside of her hood was shapely, and her pupils were deep crimson as if they were on fire. As he thought, he didn't mistake her for another person.

Part 2

The one that came to visit was the master of Zircon Tower—The Feudal Lord of this town, Farnis Lamnites.

Her deep red lips expressed a smile.

"I shall be coming in, Diablo."

The Feudal Lord came to visit alone!?

He was surprised by that, but showing respect for a local Feudal Lord wasn't Demon King like. He feigned calmness and replied to her.

"What have you come for, Lamnites?"

"Did I not say that I have come to talk with you."

Even though she was a local Feudal Lord, she claimed to be the "ruler of the desert country" and was quite bold. She seemed to have a personality that would not become timid.

Even though he did not give her permission, she came into the room.

Diablo snorted.

"Hmph.....Very well.....However, you had better prepare yourself if it is about trivial business, got it?"

"You will not find it dull."

Lamnites took off her robe, and placed it on the back of a chair.

She was not in her usual armored appearance.

It was an evening dress that had her back greatly exposed.

The bulges of her chest were open in an amazing visage that looked like they would spill out. His gaze was unconsciously drawn towards them, and he tried to hurriedly pull it away from them, but he failed.

She crossed her arms, and her breasts were brought together and lifted up. Her cleavage that was deep even at normal times was emphasized.

"You weren't at the victory celebration, why?"

"I dislike boisterous things."

—If I were at a place that gathered the attention of a great number of people like that, it wouldn't end with just a cold sweat.

"Fufu, I had thought that it was something like that but.....Have you eaten?"

"There is no need to worry about that."

Since Rem and the others brought some food back with them, he ate together with Horun. It ended up being a bit late at night though.

Lamnites opened a wine bottle that she brought along.

"Well then, this alone is enough, right?"

"If it's alcohol, then drink it alone."

"Do not say that. This is the best grape wine in this area."

In this first-class inn, even tableware was prepared. She took out wine glasses from the shelves, and poured the rich purplish red liquid into them.

The aroma filled the room.

It seemed that it certainly was different from normal alcohol.

It was a fragrance that caused interest in the taste to well up even in Diablo who did not have that much interest in alcohol.

Lamnites held it out to him.

"At least accompany me in a toast."

"Hmph.....What a tiresome fellow."

Diablo grabbed the bowl of the wine glass, and took it.

He brought it close to the glass that she held.

Since the wine glass was made thin and delicate, he did not do something like hit the other person's glass when making the toast. Even in another world, these manners were common. This also went with grabbing the bowl. Holding it by grabbing the stem was only for when one was tasting it.

"To today's victory."

"Umu."

—It's already something that happened yesterday though.

After lightly lifting them up to each other, they brought the wine glasses to their lips.

While enveloped by the mellow aroma of fruit, he sent the liquid into his throat. Both its sweetness and sourness were tightly concentrated, and yet, the bitterness was moderate. Surprisingly, it felt easy to drink and had a gentle feeling going down his throat. He had the impression that it would be more dense and thick, but he didn't feel any discomfort.

In an instant, after a pause, the fragrance came out from his nostrils.

"Ooo....."

Reflexively, he leaked out a manga-like astonishment for it.

He felt that his body was getting hot. It was easy to drink, but the alcohol might have been strengthened.

Lamnites also breathed a sigh.

"It seems that you were pleased with it."

"It was very good."

"Why don't we have a seat and talk."

It was a room that had both office chairs and sofas, but Lamnites sat down on the edge of the bed.

She urged Diablo to sit down as well with her gaze.



Since the Feudal Lord came to visit bringing a present late at night, she probably had an appropriate discussion to have. Since he drank the delicious

grape wine, he had no reason to refuse her.

Diablo sat down next to her.

However, he was separated enough from her for another person to sit between them.

He had grown accustomed to Rem and Shera, but when it came to an adult woman that he wasn't that intimate with, this much of a distance was his limit. If he got too close, he would become nervous and he would become unable to concentrate on the talk.

Lamnites chuckled.

"Diablo, what do you plan on doing after this?"

"I would like to have a snack."

"I have prepared that. However, that was not what I meant."

".....Umu."

He understood what she was interested in. As well as what she was hoping for. As Zircon Tower's Feudal Lord, she probably wanted Diablo's group to remain here.

He had defeated the Demon King Army's commander-in-chief Vanaknes. However, there was still the Demon King. They did not have a grasp on his whereabouts, but going by the Demonic Being's words and their war potential, his revival was definite. If the Demon King was in good health, the Demon King Army would probably come to attack again.

War potential was needed to protect the town.

Diablo said this.

"You should quickly evacuate."

Having lost so much war potential, the Demon King Army should not invade again any time soon. So they should pull back to a town that has a barrier like Faltra City while they can now.

The Demon King's revival—

Even in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, that event was there.

It was the decisive game that was held periodically. It was generally made to match with things like summer and winter breaks and Golden Week.

By gathering special items through cleaning up small fry enemies and then obtaining the right to make a challenge, Players could gather their companions, and challenge the Demon King.

—Well, I challenged him going solo though.

In any case, in the game, there was a great number of Adventurers that were at the upper limit of level 150, and they were equipped with Legendary class weapons.

By exchanging information on the internet and guessing even the hidden parameters through the attempts made by the several millions of active Players, the optimum capture route was established.

In this other world, Adventurers like that did not exist.

At the very least, Diablo has not met with any of them.

Something like an order to “subjugate in the one week period the event is in session” like it was in the game was probably impossible. They didn’t even know his whereabouts after all.

Of course, there was also the possibility that “the Demon King isn’t as strong as he was in the game either” but.....

He had fought against the incompletely revived Demon King Krebskrum before. Going by the feelings he had at that time, she might be weaker than in the game, but it wasn’t that great of a difference—In other words, it’s a fight that can’t be won with this town’s armed forces.

They should evacuate.

Lamnites frowned.

"But what if for example, there was an outrageously strong Magician. Would he not be able to defeat the Demon King?"

Could Diablo not win against the Demon King?

"I might be able to win."

"Ooh....."

"However, that’s only if it is one-on-one. In the middle of my fight with the Demon King, there is no way the Demonic Beings would remain as spectators, right?"

"Naturally, they would surely interfere."

In the game, small fry enemies wouldn’t interfere in the middle of the fight with the last boss. Cases where the scene was played out like that were different though.

It was different from reality.

Most likely, he would have to fight against countless Demonic Beings and

Demonic Beasts before fighting against the Demon King.

He could win even if he had to face off against the Demon King and the Demon King Army at the same time—Diablo was not conceited enough to think that, nor was he reckless enough to do that.

Lamnites breathed a sigh.

"Well then, how does protecting the town at the very least sound?"

"If you are going to evacuate, I shall assist you during that time, as an Adventurer. However, I have no plans on taking permanent residence in this desert town."

"I will not tell you to take permanent residence. However, there is also the path of augmenting not the withdrawal but with the war potential, is there not?"

"If the opponent has war potential like that of that day, you would need one hundred fellows with the strength of at least a Holy Knight. Otherwise, you would want ten fellows on Faltra's Feudal Lord's level."

"Come to think of it, we could not find the figure of the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta anywhere.....Would you, know of anything about him?"

".....He's probably, dead."

After hesitating to say it for an instant, Diablo answered her.

Lamnites opened her eyes wide.

"Goodness!?"

"For a more detailed explanation, you should ask Lumachina. She knows everything about it, and her words are probably more trustworthy than anyone else's."

"Certainly, there would be no anxiety of a false testimony if it was the High Chief Priest saying it."

"Is that all for your business? In that case....."

"I understand that you will not stay in this town. However, you still have yet to decide on where it is that you will go, correct?"

"That's right."

First, they needed rest.

Diablo was also tired, but his companions were also considerably tired.

They traveled from Faltra City to the Former Demon King territory that they were not familiar with, and came to Zircon Tower City. While not having any proper rest, they fought against the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta.

After that, they were chased by Lamnites, and headed to Diablo's dungeon without returning to town.

Once they thought that they finally finished capturing the dungeon, there was that day's war.

—This isn't a problem with HP and MP. It's about being worn out.

"For me, I would like to have you stay for a long time. For that sake, I have prepared an appropriate service."

Before he knew it, the one person's worth of space that should have been between them was completely closed up.

Sliding her butt without any hesitation, Lamnites got close enough that his shoulder was touched by her body.

—Eh? What does she mean?

Diablo was shaken up.

In this other world, he was a hunk that wielded tremendous magical power and a muscular Magician, but the interior was a cherry boy, shut-in gamer.

Being approached like this by a woman wearing such a seductive dress, he couldn't keep his normal composure.

Dropping his gaze, her cleavage was right there. And then, coming out from the slit of her disheveled skirt, her thigh was exposed to a fairly deep spot.

—Awawa.

However, being shaken up by boobs and thighs isn't Demon King-like!

Lamnites brought her body close.

Diablo's arm was snugly buried in her cleavage.

"Hoa.....!?"

"Nn.....Your thing is.....quite robust."

She's talking about his arm, she's talking about his arm, right? The Demons' physical parameters was on the lower side among the Races, but with a level 150 body, he was more muscular than the average Warrior.

"Naturally."

He replied with words that he said using his best efforts.

Lamnites curved the ends of her lips.

"Come to think of it, you said that you would like some snacks, didn't you?"

"Y, yeah....."

"I brought some chocolate."

She pulled out a round, black drop. In this country, it was a considerably high-class confectionery.

"You're quite tactful."

"Here, open your mouth."

"I will eat it myself."

"Just do it. It would made for a good side show at least."

"Mu....."

Since it was ridiculous to quarrel with her, Diablo opened his mouth.

Lamnites took the chocolate and—

She didn't put it there, but carried it to her own mouth.

Right when he was thinking about what kind of joke this was, those red lips of hers were brought close to Diablo's mouth.

The inside of his head went completely blank.

A soft sensation touched Diablo's lips.

Pokan Something sweet entered his mouth that remained open. It was the chocolate.

Also—a tongue?

Lamnites pressed her lips, and extended her tongue.

He had his tongue licked by a woman.

It was as if his own body was being rolled around on top of a soft tongue. As the inside of his mouth was toyed with by her tongue, she continued to press her chest up against his arm.

On top of that, Lamnites' empty hand stretched out to Diablo's lower half of his body.

From on top of his pants, she caressed him as if to ascertain its shape.

While keeping her lips on him, Lamnites whispered.

"Nn.....It's getting hard."

—It's my leg! My thigh! Is she talking about my quadriceps!?

Since he was bracing himself way too much out of nervousness, he put strength in the muscles of his thighs. Since it wasn't anything else, the hearts of the people that imagined wicked things are the wicked ones.

Lamnites' stroking hand gradually became more daring.

"Fufu.....So big."

My height, right! My height is at 188 centimeters after all!

Lamnites was about 170 centimeters. That was tall for a woman, but since Diablo had a tall figure, she instead felt petite.

With the *suri suri* sound of cloth rubbing together and the *chupa chupa* sound of being wet, the sound of her breath getting lively gradually got mixed in.

Their lips had been put together too many times, enough for him to think that they would be dissolved into one.

"Hafuu.....nku.....chupa....."

"O, oi....."

Lamnites separated.

He had been kissed for about five minutes.

Diablo realized that he himself had stopped breathing. He sent air into his lungs. She gazed at him with intoxicated eyes.

"I would seem that you do not have much experience with kissing, do you, Diablo? However, that couldn't have been your first, could it?"

"Hmph.....There is no way that was my first."

When he was summoned to this other world, he had been kissed by Rem and Shera with the 《Slavery Ritual》, and he had kissed Krum with the 《Slave Ritual》 just a few days ago.

Other than in rituals, moreover as a deep one, that was his first though.....

She licked her own lips. They were shinily wet, and glittered from the light of the candlestick.

"That is unfortunate. Well then, how about your experience over here?"

"Wait, what are you planning on doing."

"I said that I would entertain you to make it so that you would stay in this town longer, did I not? Be at ease, I have a nature where I must carry out anything successfully, so I am first-rate."

—What do you mean by first-rate!?

This wasn't a problem about being good or bad at something.

This was plainly using seductive techniques to attain her ends, wasn't it.

"That sort of thing, is a bit....."

He didn't work in his original world. He did nothing but play the game everyday. However, it was only because he wasn't needed in society, and by no means was it because lazy, and in fact, he had a serious personality.

That's why his serious self thought that using seductive techniques to attain one's ends wasn't good.

It was absolutely not because he "felt timid from being approached by a woman". Absolutely not.

Diablo lifted up his arm and tried to create some distance from Lamnites.

That arm pushed up against her ample boobs.

She raised a nasally voice.

"Nnu....."

"Uu....."

"Do you want to touch them? Fufu.....You can do as you like."

"Wrong, that is not the case."

"Do not hold back. Ahh, is it better like this?"

Lamnites lean her body on him. Diablo ended up being pushed down onto the bed.

"Listen to me."

"Try them out, they feel really good."

Seriously!?

—Nonono, that's no good. It's no good if I start feeling good.

"That isn't the problem....."

As Diablo was unable to strongly refuse her, Lamnites nimbly undid his belt.

"Fufufu.....It really is robust. It's long.....and hard."

To ascertain the shape of the thing that had been exposed to the air, Lamnites crept the fingers of both of her hands along it.

The undone belt was the clasp of the 《Supreme Ruler's Bangle》 on his right arm, and what was exposed to the air was his right arm. This was very important.

And then, her long tongue crept along Diablo's right arm.

It was ticklish.

And yet, it certainly did feel good.

It was different from warming up with a hot bath, or combing through one's hair with one's fingers. His spinal muscles trembled from the peculiar sensation.

"Ugh....."

"Fufun.....So this is where you are weak?"

With the part where it started to become thick—in other words, the base of his

right wrist, being persistently licked, Diablo involuntarily took a breath.

After it was amply wetted, Lamnites inserted his arm in between the bulges of her chest.

She supported her pair of spheres with both of her hands, and made it all look like a hotdog.

Zuryu She moved them.

They rubbed against him.

With something long and hard that was wet with saliva and sweat (his arm) held in between, her two large bulges went up and down.

A strong oppressive feeling, not a ticklish weak stimulus like it was up until now, came and went over and over.

Lamnites' breathing was lively.

"Fuu, fuu.....How is it?"

"Ah, no....."

This certainly was amazing.

However, receiving this conduct and honestly replying with something like "it feels good" wasn't Demon King-like.

While he was not saying anything, her movements grew even more intense.

"Nn, nn, nn, so it is not enough. I shall do it more."

"Uu....."

"Hahn, ahn....."

Lamnites started to raise a strange voice.

"Wh, what's wrong?"

"Me as well.....The tips are, being rubbed....."

"Tips!?"

"Hafun! Nn! Nkuh! Ah! Nnn....."

Using her waist and knees, she boldly went up and down.

The passion steadily got worked up.

—Ah, crap. This is, bad.

Diablo reflexively raised his waist up from the bed.

Kon kon

A knocking sound was made, and Diablo's thoughts that felt like they were caught in a fog rapidly cleared up. He cooled down as if ice water was poured on him.

He excitedly put his (bangle's) belt back on.
Lamnites also straightened her disheveled dress.
Diablo answered sounding like a Demon King.
"Hmph.....Who is there?"

Part 3

A small voice came from the other side of the door.
"Ah.....Um.....Excuse me for disturbing late at night.....Diablo-sama. Seeing the light from the window, I thought that you might still be awake."
It was Lumachina's voice.
Normally, he should let her into his room.
However, Lamnites was here. Moreover, she was in a dress that had a really high degree of exposure.
The room was filled with the smell of liquor, and a different aroma of obscenity also wafted about.
Even if it was the all too serious Lumachina, she probably wouldn't hold a bad impression from a victory celebration merrymaking but—it was doubtful if what had happened up until just a little while ago could be called merrymaking, so Diablo didn't open the door.
Instead, he opened the window and ventilated the room.
".....Did you, need something?"
In the end, he answered her with the door still closed.
"It isn't urgent but.....I wanted to talk with you no matter what."
"Let me hear it."
Lumachina talked from the other side of the door.
"I, am thinking of returning to the royal capital."
"What!?"
"Of course, I do not mean right away. There is still a great number of people that require treatment, and since I will be borrowing the chapel tomorrow, I will need to start the dispelling of the 《Marked Death Disease》."
"That is true."

Due to the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta's sorcery, a hex called the Marked Death Disease ran rampant in this town.

It was possible to dispel it through the use of the 《White Cow Statue》 that they had brought back from Diablo's base.

It wasn't like Lumachina's power was required, but a considerable amount of chaos would occur if she did not manage it.

Due to Baduta having disappeared, this town's Church had lost its leader.

There was a need to ascertain and nominate a person to entrust it to even after she leaves the town.

Even if that was finished up—

Diablo asked Lumachina a question.

"The fact that you will return to the royal capital will mean that you will be going to the base of the ones that aimed for your life. Do you have any prospects of victory?"

Lumachina held the Church's most prominent position of 《High Chief Priest》.

However, the upper echelons that should have originally been supporting her—the people of the Cardinal Institute targeted her life.

It was because she tried to rectify the Church's corruption.

In terms of status, Lumachina was the higher one, but the Holy Knights that were the actual armed might of the Church followed the Cardinal Institute. They made use of their special rights to earn funds, and held the Church under their thumbs.

If she remained powerless, she would only end up being disposed of. Because she thought that way, Lumachina came to Zircon Tower.

To rely on the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta.

However, although he was rumored to be a noble person, Baduta had degenerated into a scoundrel.

Her situation didn't improve at all.

Even in regards to the Holy Knight that received the order to assassinate her from the Cardinal Institute, it seemed that she saved him as he was about to die in the dungeon with her power of miracles.....

—There's a limit to how good-natured a person can be.

Diablo was also doing something like a Demon King role play, but an act was just an act. In truth, he just didn't want to see someone dying.

However, he didn't think that he would want to save someone that came targeting his life.

His own safety and the safety of his companions was much more important than the enemy's life.

If they attacked with the intent to kill, he would kill them.

That was only natural.

However, it's because of this world where the giving and taking of lives was only natural that he felt that Lumachina's disposition was sacred and precious.

She started talking.

"I believe that I cannot win as I am now. I might not even create the chance to seek reform."

"So you do understand."

"Yes.....But, after about one month.....I think I would like to depart."

"Why is there a need to return in such a rush?"

"The Demon King has revived. I am uneasy as to whether or not the guidance of those who have indulged in selfish desires will make the Church a strength that will protect the people."

"I am sure that is impossible."

"Diablo-sama, do you believe that as well?"

"At times where a crisis approaches the country, those at the top who perpetrate corruption will reform themselves and fight against the enemy—That sort of thing is just a pipe dream of the lower classes. Reality is different."

"So they won't do anything."

"No, they will surely take action.....Once they hear of the news of the Demon King's revival, they will move their private property and family to a distant foreign country. At the time the front line is broken through, the ones that will disappear from the royal capital first will be "the ones that coveted riches with those sorts of special rights".

"No way.....How terrible."

"Villains do not change. No matter how the situation changes, they will use others as stepping stones and will only think about how to profit themselves."

".....That is, true.....I also, believe that. I would like for them to reform but.....As things are now, the ones that will turn into victims will be the innocent people."

"Umu."

He understood the reason why Lumachina was in a rush.

However, she had no means of fighting against them.

—I'm getting nothing but a bad premonition from this.

"Diablo-sama, I beg of you to listen to my request! Please protect me!"

What she believed about Diablo was that "although he is actually Kami-sama, on the ground, he was acting as an Adventurer that was calling himself a Demon King".

No, he couldn't tell if she was really tricked, or if she had already noticed the truth but.....

Diablo thought about it.

—To protect Lumachina and go to the royal capital?

So they would ride into the base of the Cardinal Institute, expose their injustices, and take back her proper authority.

In order to do that, they would have to win against Holy Knights that were around level 100.

That was difficult.

"If I were to refuse, what would you do?"

"At that time, I intend on returning to the royal capital alone."

"You will die."

"Even if that is the case, it is better than living without doing anything....."

"Shouldn't you seek for anyone that will assist you in more places?"

"I do not believe that there is anyone stronger than you, Diablo-sama, in the Lifelia Kingdom or in the neighboring areas. And even if there was, there is no guarantee that I would procure their assistance. Instead of searching for someone that has such a slim possibility, I would rather return to the royal capital alone and put my efforts for the sake of bringing the Church back to its ideal situation. Even if I were to lose my life doing so."

Going *Hmph.....*, Diablo curved the ends of his lips.

Going up against many Holy Knights was "difficult"—That is what he would have thought before.

"Very well."

"Eh?"

Right now, he was different. He had the strongest equipment and items take

from his treasury.

The situation has changed from before.

"Your wish, it has reached me. With my infinite strength, I shall sweep away all that will stand in your way."

"Ahh.....Thank you very much! Thank you very much!"

Lumachina prostrated herself in the hallway and repeatedly said her thanks. Since the door was still closed, he didn't see that appearance of hers though.

What was in Diablo's vision after having declared that so imposingly was Lamnites who was puffing up her cheeks looking discontented.

He reflexively faltered.

"What is it?"

"Were you dissatisfied with my service? So you are going to leave the town, in a month."

"If you listened to the conversation, you should understand the reason."

"So you prefer young women."

"You know that it wasn't that sort of story, right!?"

When he carelessly raised his voice, Lumachina responded from the other side of the door.

"Is something the matter, Diablo-sama?"

"Ah.....Ahem! It is nothing. It is already late, and since you surely have things to do tomorrow as well, you should hurry up and go to sleep."

"Yes.....Um....."

"Do you still need something?"

"No, um.....I really am grateful, Kami-sama."

Leaving behind those words, Lumachina took her leave. Did she still believe that?

[Previous Part](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Part](#)

Part 4

Lamnites tilted her head.

"Did she say, Kami-sama?"

"That just means, that I am as strong as one."

"The Church's teaching should have prohibited the worshipping Gods other than the sole God that is written in the scriptures though?"

"You sure are well-informed."

"I am not foolish enough to oppose an opponent without knowing about them first."

"Actually.....Lumachina believes that I am the advent of God."

"Is that girl an idiot?"

"Did you see her as being wise?"

".....No, that's true. She is an idiot, her beliefs are intense, and she is not flexible—If she was not like that, she probably would not think of trying to reform the Church."

"That is how it is."

Going *Fufu*, Lamnites laughed.

"Now that you mention it, rather than calling you an excellent Magician, I could agree with calling you the incarnation of God."

"Hmph, this is no joke. Just as I introduced myself before—I am a Demon King of another world."

"You are an interesting man."

"Damned strange woman."

For some reason, whenever he was up against Lamnites, his tune gets out of whack.

It seemed as if she were seeing through his Demon King roleplay, and it felt uncomfortable. Was this how dealing with an adult woman felt like?

Lamnites grabbed her robe that was on the chair, and put it on.

"Since you turned me down, I shall go back."

"What will you do about the town?"

"I am no imbecile. If you all will not remain, there is no choice but to withdraw."

"I see.....I thought that you would fuss over the town more."

"Even if I fuss over it, this town is my country after all. However, once it is known that you all are leaving the town, the scraped together mercenaries and Adventurers, and, if done unskillfully, even the soldiers should start to run away."

"I suppose, that's how it will be."

They were made to realize the Demon King Army's strength. Everyone knew that the state of the war was reversed all thanks to Diablo's group. If that distinguished party were to leave the town—There was no way the others would remain.

Lamnites shrugged her shoulders.

"Do not mind it. As long as there are people, it is possible for the town to be restored. If it were not for all of your group's achievements, everything would have been lost. You have my gratitude."

".....I am not.....particularly minding it. Because I am a Demon King, something like a town of the Races is of no concern to me."

"In one month, I shall lead the citizens and evacuate. As we will be sending the sand ships out to the edge of the desert, you all may ride that as well. Until then, please protect the town."

"Well, if you will send out a ship, I do not mind waiting."

"Fufu.....If you change your mind, come visit the tower. We shall have a continuation of tonight there."

For an instant, he remembered the conduct from not long ago, and froze up. Diablo crossed his arms and took his gaze off of her.

"Wh, what are you saying. Did you think that I had any interest in that sort of thing?"

"How unfortunate, I had an interest in your thing down there though."

—So raw!

Diablo felt like he was going to blush.

He turned his back to her, and gazed outside from the window. He cooled his face with the night wind.

"Hurry up and get out."

"Good night, Diablo."

The door was closed behind him.

It did not feel like his sleepiness would return for awhile.

Chapter 1: The Royal Capital

Part 1

One month later, on board a ship—

A thunderous roar resounded.

A gigantic serpent blew up the desert sand. Writhing in pain, it eventually stopped moving. It was a Sandworm.

Its head was blown off by means of attack magic.

It was a sturdy monster, but as expected, it didn't come attacking again.

Leaning her body forward from the sand ship's guardrail, Horun shouted.

"Uhyo—, amazing -ssu! As expected of you, Diablo-san -ssu!"

"It's only natural."

He sheathed the dagger that he held in his hand into its scabbard.

Although the staff that was his main force, the 《Tonnerre Empereur》, would increase the might several fold, the MP consumption was extraordinary.

Right now, he used the dagger 《Garuda Edge》. It increased HP, and had a moderate chance of cutting away an enemy's physical attack.

Weapons that possessed defensive type special effects were unpopular in the game. They were treated as loser items.

In the game, seeking after weapons that gave a lot of damage allowed Players to advance in quests with better efficiency.

However, in this other world, if one died, they would really die. There was no resurrection or continues.

Since there was the chance of receiving an unforeseen attack, it was equipment for caution's sake.

Diablo behaved as if he had nothing to fear due to his Demon King role play, but he was a Gamer on the inside. In many cases, Gamers that had stacked up a lot of experience were cautious as they were cowardly.

Boobs crashed into him.

Those two soft bulges struck the area around Diablo's stomach.

Shera the Elf had embraced him.

Normal Elves were slender and had small chests, but she truly had a figure of being a thin body with big breasts.

Gyuu When she clung onto him, he could feel the softness even though the clothing.

"You did it, Diablo!"

"U, umu.....Are you injured?"

"I'm fine!"

Diablo turned his gaze to the surrounding area.

On the deck of the sand ship, the corpses of bird-type monsters that came to attack in great numbers were scattered about.

The ones that were petrified were due to the effect of Shera's bow.

It seemed that a majority of the sailors and soldiers who were Lamnites' subordinates were also safe. But since there was the treatment of the injured and the repairing of the ship left, it was still a strenuous effort.

A young Pantherian girl making a discontented face entered his eyes.

It was Rem.

Because he had given her new equipment the other day, she had changed her clothes once again. It felt as if the cloth surface had decreased even more. The armor for use by women of the MMORPG Cross Reverie had a tendency to increase skin exposure as their level increased.

Rem didn't mind the increase in skin exposure all that much. She was delighted in how easy it was to move in. Maybe because she was a Pantherian, she seemed to possess a unique sense.

".....Stop clinging onto him for every little thing, Shera. It's improper."

"You're like a mom."

".....Anyone would feel the same way and say the same thing."

"But, but, whenever you feel happy, or think something was amazing, don't you just want to transmit those feelings?"

".....I cannot understand the connection between that thought and the action of clinging onto him."



"Our hearts get closer together, right?"

"In your case.....the useless meat on your chest just gets pressed up against

him!"

"That's so mean—!"

".....Shera,I am unwilling to have even our quality of character to be doubted because of you."

"I get it—. In that case, it'll be fine if everyone hugs each other, right?"

"How did it come to that, you stupid Elf!"

"Eh—!? Even though I thought it was a good idea."

It was the usual arguing back and forth of Rem and Shera.

There was someone glaring at that scene while gritting their teeth from a place that was a bit apart from them.

It was the Magimatic Maid Rose.

She could not move from the center of the sand ship where the main mast was. She was considerably heavy even at normal times, but during battle, gigantic arms would appear from out of nowhere. Those were also extraordinarily heavy. It was enough that the sand ship would slant if she were to carelessly approach the edge of the deck.

She was devoted to Diablo.

Seeming like the game's settings had taken over even the face that she makes normally, that was no longer just a theory, and she was now that sort of existence.

In proportion to her loyalty that was full of vim and vigor, her feelings of envy were strong as well, but he had ordered her to restrain herself.

He didn't want to see any fights among the group—That is what pacifist Diablo thought.

Surveying the surroundings, Diablo twisted his neck.

"Where is Lumachina?"

".....Not long ago, she was called by Lord Lamnites, and went to the cabin. It seemed that she was asked to treat some injured people."

Rem answered.

"Fumu."

Her healing was extremely superior to others. It was only natural that she would be relied on.

Horun clutched her fists.

"As expected of Lumachina-san -ssu!"

".....Horun, wouldn't it be better if you were also in the cabin?"

"Why -ssu ka?"

Although Rem looked like she had a hard time saying this, she said it.

".....It would be, better if you were in a safe place at the time of battle."

"Eh?"

Horun stiffened up.

Shera, who didn't really think deeply about things, said it quite readily.

"That's true—, it's hard to attack when you're near the monsters. It feels like my arrows might hit you."

".....Same here, it makes it hard for me to set my Summoned Beasts on them. That being said, it's not like you're strong enough to leave some monsters to you."

Going *Uuu*, Horun shrank away.

She looked pitiful, but Horun was a Seeker. That is technically classified as a Warrior-type, but it's a Support-type and is not a class oriented for battle.

In addition to that, Grasswalkers were a race who kept the appearance of a child even when they become adults, and were weak with close combat.

In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, it was possible to rely on equipment and magic for firepower, and by no means was it a misfortunate job but.....

—To begin with, Horun is a twelve year old child, and her level is around 20 after all.

Diablo's companions were an assembly of considerably higher than average members. It couldn't be helped that she had an unfavorable comparison among the group.

They were probably saying that it would be better for her to do the things that she could do in the cabin rather than getting injured—is what Diablo also thought.

He opened his mouth.....

But decided to stop.

Since he was a poor-talker, it was certain that he would make a mistake in his way of talking and hurt Horun's feelings.

People could learn.

It wasn't like she did it in his place, but Rose opened her mouth. Going *Hmph*, she smiled.

"Useless tools will be thrown away, you know?"

"Hii!?"

Horun became teary eyed.

—Wait, wait, wait!

If it's like this, it would have been better if he himself had said something!
(probably) Thinking that, Diablo panicked.

Ban He waved his mantle.

"Hmph! What are you saying? Since when did I count you all as war potential?
To me, the strength of you all is equivalent to nothing. There is no better or worse to nothing."

Everyone, get along!

He thought that it would be great if his feelings got across to them
but—everyone got along and held their heads down.

Rose groaned.

"It is just as you say.....In front of Master, this Rose is nothing more than fallen dust in the corner of a hallway. I am terribly sorry for existing."

Rem and Shera also looked depressed. Horun also kept her gloomy face.
Diablo panicked in his mind.

"Th, therefore, you should at least work hard so that you do not drag me down."

".....You're the same as usual, aren't you, Diablo."

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

Horun pushed out a fist.

"Got it -ssu! I will do my best and work hard so that I don't drag you down -ssu!"

"Umu, strive for that."

He was delighted that his feelings were somehow transmitted to them. His efforts were rewarded.

Rose made a pensive look.

"If it is Master's desire.....Although this is not Rose's real intention, there is a means to increase a subordinate's abilities."

An unexpected proposal came up.

Diablo tilted his head.

In this other world, although there were some mysterious things, a majority of

the components resembled how things worked in the MMORPG Cross Reverie. He had never heard of anything that could increase a party member's abilities. Of course, if it was something temporary in the middle of battle, it was possible to increase them with Support Magic but.....She probably didn't mean it in that meaning.

"I will allow it, tell me about it in detail."

"Certainly, My Master. It can be done by being linked together with this treasured article right here, the 《Master and Servant Contract》. By doing so, the servant will be strengthened depending on the abilities of the master. I believe that even a roadside pebble could be a bit useful to Master as a paperweight."

What Rose took out was a choker.

It was a black-dyed leather choker.

Since magical formations were carved into it, it had a Goth-loli-type obscenity to it.

"The 《Master and Servant Contract》 you say?"

Diablo recalled the game's specifications.

Something like that shouldn't have been implemented.

—No, but, that sort of feature was in a different game that would be its rival game, wasn't it.

With a system similar to an apprenticeship, existing Players became able to guide newcomer Players. If the coaching side was strong, the support effect would become even bigger.

Putting it simply, it was a "help measure to make it easier to play with invited friends on the same stage".

Was there a similar system in Cross Reverie and was it just not implemented? Or, could it be that the good parts of the rival game were harvested, and going to be implemented in the future?

He thought that this other world was the inspiration for Cross Reverie. Even now, there was no change to that conjecture.

However, if the features of that different game had an influence on Cross Reverie, and that was reflected with the 《Master and Servant Contract》.....

Just what kind of existence was this other world?

Putting aside the speculation that had no answer, Diablo thought about Horun.

"It would be good if she merely became strong though. But isn't there compensation that needs to be made?"

"There are not any. Since Master's registration has already been finished, all she needs to do is place it on her neck."

Rose declared that.

—I'm registered? But I don't remember having registered for that sort of thing though?

It turned into a talk as if it were a suspicious street sale. What is up with that, so scary.

Rem forced her way into the conversation.

"Please wait a second! I have also heard of that. This is my first time seeing that tool, but the servants that enter the 《Master and Servant Contract》, in exchange for receiving the master's divine protection—if the master dies, then the servant also dies, isn't that the case for that tool?"

That was some outrageous compensation.

Rose tilted her head looking like she found something strange.

"And what of it? To have only yourself live when the master passes away, that is unthinkable. Since you would commit suicide anyway, it couldn't be called compensation, could it?"

".....That might only be the case for you though."

Rem breathed a sigh.

Shera made a troubled looking face.

"U~n, something like a place where Diablo would die, I can't really imagine one though....."

"About how strong would I become?"

Horun chimed in.

Rose raised up the ends of her lips.

"You will become the servant of Master who has none that rival him in this world you know? It is obvious that there will be an immense effect that cannot be fully described with human speech."

"Ooo.....Amazing -ssu! So awesome -ssu!"

Rem remonstrated her.

".....Calm down right now. You are twelve years old, and no matter how you look at it, Diablo is older. It might be laughable for an Adventurer to think about

reaching old age. But it isn't something you should ignore, you know?"

"O, old age -ssu ka!?"

".....Besides, putting on something like a choker, what do you plan on doing for things like marriage?"

"Marriage -ssu ka!? That is.....I....."

Horun turned this way, and suddenly met eyes with him.

Her face went red.

Seeing that, even Rem and Shera had their cheeks dye red.

—What?

He didn't understand what was going on.

Rose wrinkled her brow. Even though she was a Magimatic that was sold as furniture, she was a girl with an abundance of facial expressions.

"On second thought, let us not do this. This Rose will not allow it.....Something like letting riffraff approach the Master!"

"Eeeh!? What's up with that all of a sudden -su ka!?"

"To begin with, this Rose intends of having this choker placed on her by Master.....So I will absolutely not had it over!"

Rem looked at her with reproachful eyes.

".....Would it have an effect on you? You are a machine, aren't you?"

"Th, there wouldn't but.....Only all of you have chokers on! It's unfair."

"Eh—!? We don't have these on because we like them you know!?"

Shera grabbed her choker and emphasized it.

"To have it forced onto you by Master.....Something such a envious thing done to you. Are you boasting!?"

The girls became loud and boisterous.

Diablo cut off the conversation.

"Enough! I have no complaints with Horun's work. There is no need for the 《Master and Servant Contract》."

If there wasn't a significant support effect, there's no mistake they would be disappointed.

Even if that weren't the case, he was anxious about making Horun who was not suited for battle become strong with half measures and then sending her out to battle.

And above all, being entrusted with someone else's life was way too heavy!

Maybe because she thought that their opinions matched, Rose smiled looking delighted. She then immediately returned to being expressionless, and bowed.

"At your will, Master."

Horun looked like she had a bit of reluctance, but she didn't insist on it.

"Got it -ssu....."

".....Doing it this way is better. Since you are still young, steadily work hard."

Rem patted her shoulder.

Shera hugged Horun.

"Let's do our best, together!"

Half a month later, the troupe returned to Faltra City.

Part 2

Having returned to Faltra City after such a long time, they were able to check on Krum and Edelgart's safety.

There were discussions that accumulated, but they needed to hurry on.

Lamnites and the others of Zircon Tower decided to settle down in a town nearby Faltra City.

Come to think of it, Lamnites had repeatedly conducted speech and conduct that was similar to making an insurrection. She probably didn't want to approach the royal capital.

It seemed as though her affinity with Faltra's Feudal Lord was also complicated too though.....

Diablo's group took only a small break, and then headed to the royal capital.



Part 3

Rem's face went pale.

".....I can't, go on anymore.....Goodbye.....Thank you very much.....Diablo.....I leave the rest.....to, you....."

"Get a hold of yourself! Rem, hang in there!"

Shera hugged her.

Goton! The carriage shook.

"Hii!?"

After raising a small scream, Rem became quiet.

"Ahh, Rem—!?"

Shera grieved as if she looked over Rem's last moments.

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"So she lost consciousness once again. Well, just let her sleep."

"Guess we should."

Lifelia Calendar Year 165, Month 9, Day 22—

A gently sloping hill continued on. It would be dusk before long, so it seemed that they had fallen a bit behind schedule.

The sunlight had changed to a madder red color.

The carriage traveled along the highway.

There were simple benches on the carriage that had no roof, and Diablo's group was on board it.

Rem was weak with vehicles, but it seemed that she was especially weak with open type carriages. She repeatedly raised a clamour over the smallest shaking and then lose consciousness.

Since she was in a constant state of tension whenever she woke up, she would faint as if a thread snapped whenever something happened. She was completely haggard.

Diablo and the others were worried about her at first, but since it was like this for three days already, they had gotten completely used to it.

Sitting at the end of the bench, Lumachina cast her gaze to the front.

"It's about time."

She had a nervous expression.

That was only natural. They were approaching the stronghold of the people that targeted her life after all.

"The royal capital!?"

Horun stood up on top of the bench, stretched herself out, and let her long rabbit ears bounce about.

She seemed to have a personality that was brimming with curiosity and loved adventures. With this being her first time coming to the royal capital, her eyes sparkled and she looked like she was having fun.

They crossed over the hill.

What spread out before them was broad fields.

It was a place where canals were drawn and divided it into squares, and several kinds of crops were cultivated. A great number of people were engaged in farmwork.

Since it was already dusk, they were probably finishing up and in the middle of returning to town.

A beast repelling fence was established, and several muscular soldiers were standing there.

Diablo opened his eyes wide.

—What, is this?

It was different.

The royal capital Sevenwall in the MMORPG Cross Reverie was beyond the gently sloping hill, and was a beautiful town that was surrounded by a lake.

The royal castle Grandios was surrounded by seven ramparts, but the castle town wasn't protected by the ramparts but by the barrier, and the people were able to freely go in and out of it—That's how it should have been but.....

It was as if it was a different town.

Gigantic walls towered beyond the broad fields.

Within the walls, several towers that looked like spears were constructed.

"Lumachina, those ramparts, when were they built?"

"Erm.....When I was brought to the royal capital fourteen years ago, it wasn't there but.....Ah, it was there since twelve years ago. When the current sixth generation Lifelia King—His Majesty Dalesh Sandros was enthroned, he immediately started its construction."

"The Lifelia King huh....."

In the game, his name wasn't expressed in writing.

That's why he wasn't sure if the one called Dalesh was the same king as the one in the game or a different one.

By some chance, the town's appearance could have changed from a game update.

Personally, he preferred the royal capital having a peaceful atmosphere that was separated from an image of war.

However, now that the Demon King was revived, he could be said to have keen insight for strengthening their defenses. At the very least, he didn't seem to be incompetent.

Shera jumped into the conversation.

"What's wrong with the walls, Diablo?"

"No.....I just thought that it seemed as if they had forecasted the Demon King's revival."

"Ah, that's true."

Horun lean her body out from the carriage.

"Uwah—, so cool -ssu! That's the royal capital!"

When she nearly fell off, Diablo picked her up by the nape of the neck.

Incidentally, as usual, due to Rose being too heavy, she was made to sit on the floor grasping her knees above the rear wheel axis.

"....."

They arrived at the royal capital.

Part 4

"Come down, you suspicious looking Demon over there!"

Having the carriage stopped at the city gate, they suddenly had spears turned towards them.

—This sure is a nostalgic conversational exchange.

He remembered the time when he was first summoned to this other world.

Diablo stood up on the carriage, and glared down at the soldiers.

"To point your spears at me, I am sure that you all have a suitable resolve for it,

correct?"

"Uuu.....Th, this guy.....Is he a Demonic Being!?"

As expected of the security of the royal capital city gates.

Seeing an abnormal event taking place, around thirty soldiers gathered around in no time at all.

For those of lower positions, their proficiency wasn't low.

A majority of them were level 30 Warriors. They were insufficient to fight against the Demon King's Army, but it was enough for maintaining public order.

—Now then, what should I do?

Although he replied back out of momentum, it was an atmosphere that seemed like they wouldn't let him pass through.

At the time at 《Fort Bridge Ulg》, he was somehow able to get through since the guard was acquainted with Rem and Shera.

And at the time at Faltra City's inner gate, the Adventurer's Guild Guildmaster Sylvie did the mediation.

Even in their journey up until now, he was able to pass through the city gates.

At those times, Rem would skillfully negotiate with them but.....unfortunately, she was unconscious right now.

—Huh? Could it be, is there no way to get through the gate with my Demon King role play?

A cold sweat fell down along Diablo's spine.

Having no other choice, Lumachina tried to come forward.

Right now, she was in a position where she had to conceal herself. For the sake of that, she wore a robe with a hood that the followers of the Church used, and covered her mouth with a white cloth.

If Lumachina were to reveal her status, he would surely be able to pass through the city gates.

However, the fact that the High Chief Priest returned to the royal capital would be made known to the guys of the Cardinal Institute. He wanted to avoid that but.....

Shera was the Elven Princess, but she had nothing to denote her status. Horun was a mere Adventurer, and Rose was directing bloodlust at the soldiers that had readied their spears. She was the one that was worst for this situation.

"Could you please let that person through?"

The dress wearing woman that appeared from the inner side of the city gates announced that.

Going *Eh!?!*, the soldiers were surprised.

She had her black hair curled on the left and right, and she wore a white dress where the hem of the skirt was greatly stretched out.

He felt like he had seen her somewhere before but.....

She lightly bent her knees and made a curtsy.

"It has been a while, Diablo-sama."

The one that went *Wah—* and jumped out from the carriage was Shera.

"Alicia-san! It's been so long!"

"Fufu.....You are the same as always, aren't you, Shera-sama."

She responded with a sigh mixed in to Shera who hugged her.

He couldn't tell at first because she was not wearing glasses and her hairstyle and attire was different but.....

The dress wearing lady was Alicia Cristela.

She was the daughter of a Duke House and a State Knight. There were few people with a more trustworthy background than this even in the royal capital.

Thanks to Alicia, Diablo's group was able to safely pass through the city gates.

The carriage slowly advanced down the main street that was lined with shops.

As expected of the royal capital, there was a lot of people of the Races.

The races were also varied.

Demi-human discrimination was strong in the royal capital—that is what he had heard before, but at the very least, the ones walking around the main street weren't only Humans. Elves, Dwarves, Pantherians, Grasswalkers, Demons.....

As expected, the number of Humans was greater though.

The street was tiled, and the carriage repeatedly shook on it.

The structure of the buildings were similar to the ones in Faltra City, but the number of signboards was overwhelmingly greater. A difference in zeal towards business could be felt.

Sitting facing each other on the carriage benches, they exchanged greetings.

The current Alicia was wearing her glasses. It seemed that without those, she found it difficult to tell the expressions of the person she was conversing with.

She made a bow to Lumachina.

"This is our first time meeting.....I am a State Knight known as Alicia Cristela.

High Chief Priest-sama, it is an honor to have met you."

Only during the greeting did Lumachina take off the cloth covering her mouth and respond.

"Same here, I am happy to meet you. I am Lumachina Weselia. You really saved us earlier."

"I am grateful to know that I proved useful to you, Your Grace."

Since they were both women with high positions, they had an elegant conversation without any particular conflict from beginning to end.

Next, Alicia made a slight bow to Horun and Rose.

"I have heard that you are newly made companions, a pleasure to meet you."

"I am Horun! If it's for dungeon exploration, I'll be helpful -ssu yo!"

"Fufu.....I shall rely on you at that time."

"Un!"

In contrast to Horun who had no fear of strangers—

Rose turned a cold gaze towards her.

"What kind of relationship might you have with My Master?"

"If he were to tell me to “die”, I will die. Is this explanation insufficient?"

Alicia declared something so bold without a single change to her countenance.

She pushed up the center of her glasses with her fingertip.

Piku Rose's eyebrow moved.

"That is.....you are Master's property, is there a mistake in me taking it like that?"

"Only if you have yet to give up on taking it as such."

"Understood. Rose—please call me that. This Rose will protect Master and Master's property. In other words, I will protect you from all threats."

"Thank you very much."

In contrast with Rose who bent her back very deeply, Alicia had a polite tone but only returned a smile.

Those above would take the appropriate attitude and receive those below. Just lowering one's head was not good communication, is what this meant.

Her communication skills were as good as usual.

Despite this being her first time meeting them, she was immediately able to construct a relationship with both Horun and Rose who had contrastive personalities.

Rose in particular.

Wasn't this the first time she didn't end up giving off a hostile atmosphere? She did try to pick a fight and make a preemptive strike against Krum and Edelgart after all.....

Recalling the dispute in Faltra City, after he decided to fix that at another opportunity, Diablo brought his consciousness back to the present.

"You did well to come out and receive us, Alicia."

"Those honorable words are too good for me. Having received a letter from Rem-sama, I wondered when you would be coming for the past few days, and waited for you."

—Did she wait at the city gates the whole time!? For the past few days!?

He was surprised enough for his eyes to go round but.....

Horun was the only one that reacted.

"Fuee, did you do that the whole time -ssu ka—?"

"That is only natural."

The reactions from the rest were weak.

—Come to think of it, Shera is a princess, and Lumachina is the High Chief Priest after all. I guess they're used to that kind of dedication. And Rose had waited at the dungeon for several months.

Rem, who was person with the most common-sense in this party, was fatigued every day and was still asleep. Her complexion was like that of a corpse, but color had somewhat returned to her skin.

Come to think of it, Rem did say that she would send a letter from the town just before this one. He had doubts as to whether that was necessary or not, but they were able to pass through the city gates thanks to it.

They needed to thank her.

Lumachina seemed to have intended on immediately returning to the Church once they reached the royal capital, but no matter how one looked at it, that would be way too reckless.

First was to get some rest.

Then they thought that it would be best to search around for information on the Church.

In order to expose the evil deeds of the upper echelon, they wanted to investigate while not letting them know that Lumachina had returned to the

royal capital.

Alicia sat down next to Diablo.

"Excuse me. To think that you would come accompanied by the High Chief Priest.....As usual, you are a person where the imagination of someone like me cannot be a match for."

"Naturally. And how are things for you?"

She is a Demon King Worshipper, and a traitor to the Races.

Being forgiven by Rem who she had tried to kill, right now, she had become Diablo's subordinate.

However, her enmity towards the Races—the important people of the royal capital in particular, was still as strong as before.

If her act of treachery were known, there was the possibility that she would have been executed the moment she returned to the royal capital but.....

Alicia pinched the skirt of her dress.

"Owing to unavoidable circumstances, I am currently in the middle of a holiday, but there is no change to my position as a State Knight. Since anything more than that is a bit complicated.....I will slowly tell you about them after dinner."

"Right."

She had a lot of secrets.

Moreover, she was the owner of an ideology that couldn't be welcomed by the people of the Races. If the fastidious Lumachina were to learn of it, trouble might occur.

There was also the coachman of the carriage.

It was probably better to hear about the full details when it was just the two of them.

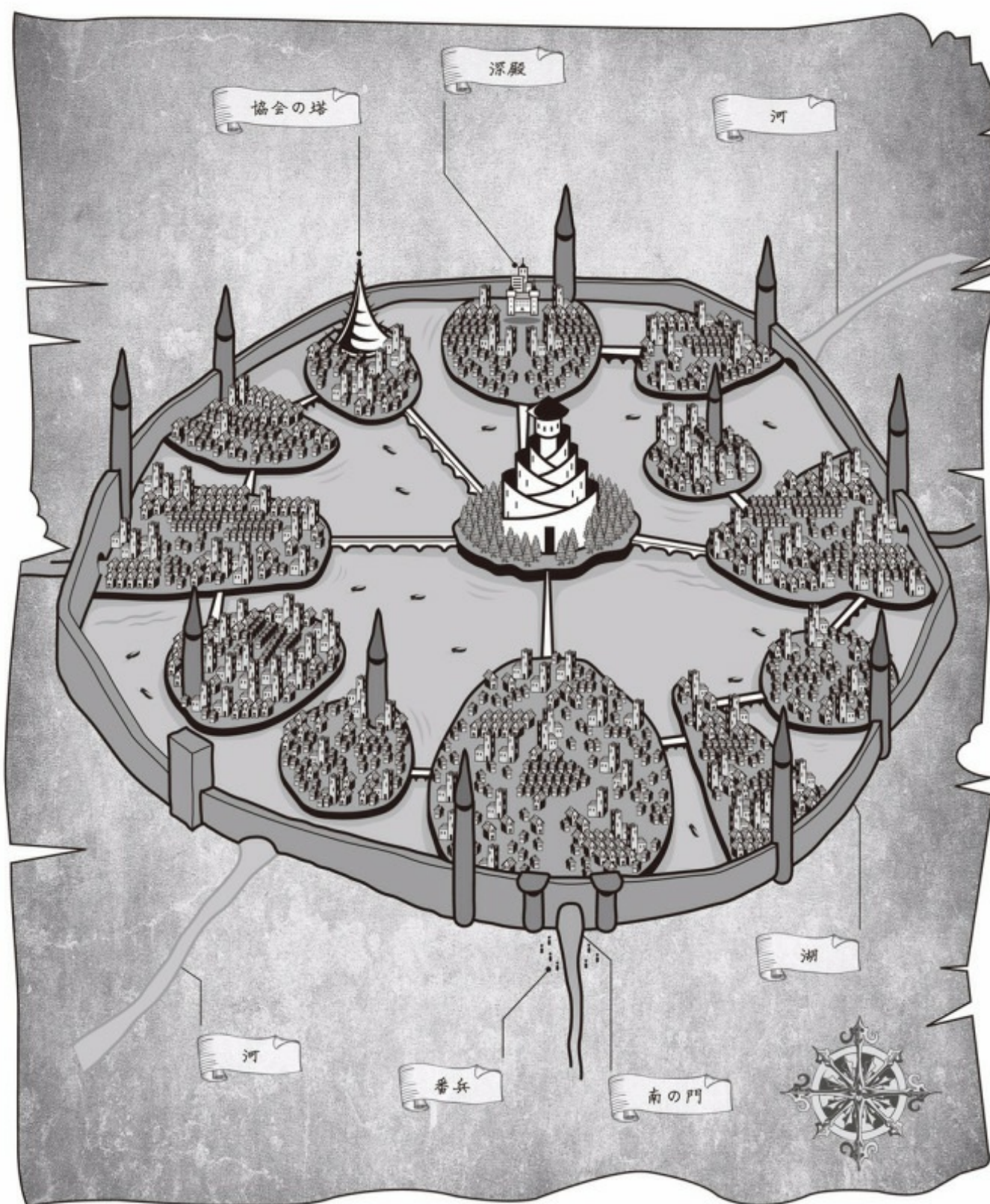
Alicia broke the ice.

"Diablo-sama, I have arranged your place of lodging. My family's estate has many people coming in and out of it, and since it is also in the first district, Demi-humans would stand out. It is in the sixth district.....Ah, I am terribly sorry, here is a map."

Seeming to have presumed that Diablo's group didn't possess even a map, Alicia presented one to them.

Accepting it, he unfolded it.

~ The Seven Wall Map ~



There were thirteen districts altogether, and as a whole, it was roughly a round shape.

Just like a clock face, due north was the twelfth district, and then, going clockwise, it was the first district, second district, third district.....and due south was the sixth district.

At the center was the royal castle. It was a gigantic castle that was its own district, and had seven ramparts.

In the space between the districts, there were broad waterways, and one would have to travel using the bridges or small boats. It was an elegant and beautiful city. The climate was gentle, but since it was a basin, fog would frequently come out.

Having passed through the western gate, they were currently in the ninth district's main street—is what was explained to them.

By including the center, the outer wall surrounded all thirteen districts as a whole.

A barrier to keep Demonic Beings out was also put up. For that reason, there were gigantic towers constructed in every district.

There was enough of a scale for thirteen Fortress City Faltras to be gathered into one here.

The royal castle at the center was the residence of the king and his family, as well as the place for national politics.

In the First District, the estates of nobles and wealthy merchants were lined up, and it also had exceedingly strong security. The inhabitants were nothing but Humans, and a trouble or two would surely occur if Diablo's group merely approached it.

The Ninth District that they were currently in was a wholesale store neighborhood.

A wholesale store did business with merchants, and would not deal with individual customers. No matter what the merchandise was, they would be dealt in units of boxes and casks. When the population becomes colossal, this sort of heavy turnover was necessary.

There were a lot of inn even in this Ninth District, but since they were aimed towards merchants, the meals were questionable, the beds were small, and yet the lodging fees were expensive. As for why, it was because stables to look after the carriages and storehouses to deposit merchandise were included in the price. Security expenses to protect the inn were also added.

The Sixth District where the inn that Alicia had made arrangements at was a place that was called the royal capital's entranceway.

The Lifelia Kingdom was a territory that spread out to the south from the royal capital. The south gate was the one that had the most people coming in and out, and stores that were targeted at individuals were gathered in the Sixth District.

What Adventurers used was usually the Sixth District—That sort of thing was the same in the MMORPG Cross Reverie.

—As I thought, this town, it seems to be the beginning town, the Royal Capital Seven Wall.

Although the appearance had drastically changed, there wasn't a great difference on the map. Though, as usual, it was several times larger than it was in the game.

The stores that Adventurers used were in the Sixth District, but the Town Quests would occur in all districts.

He did not know how similar it would be to the game, but things like searching for kittens and thief suppression.....by remembering those various quests he had completed, Diablo ended up feeling nostalgic.

In regards to the MMORPG Cross Reverie, the royal capital (the Sixth District) was the town where the game started.

Diablo spread out the map to verify one thing. It might be different from his own knowledge.

"Where is the Church?"

It wasn't Alicia but Lumachina who was listening in next to them that answered that question.

"The Northern Twelfth District—That is where the Grand Chapel is."

She tightly clenched her hands.

Part 5

The Sixth District, Main Street—
This place was also overflowing with people.

Very often, it looked like they were going to hit someone, enough that the carriage couldn't advance.

Even while on the carriage, he felt like he would be nauseous from the crowds of people.

Diablo grumbled.

"It seems like it would be faster to just walk."

"I know right—"

Shera agreed with an exasperated sounding voice.

Horun talked sounding worried.

"But, it seems like we'd get separated -ssu. And Rem-san is still sleeping too."

"That's true....."

Since Diablo wasn't used to group action, he had forgotten about the danger called "getting separated". That was a close call.

The degree of congestion, it was as if it were a commuter train.

Rose muttered.

"If Master so desires, then I will take all those that stand in our way and—"

"We should be calm about this. Rose, sit."

".....Wafu."

"Shake."

"Wafuu"

".....Umu."

"Are you, not going to do "beg"?"

"Enough, just sit already."

Diablo couldn't tell what Lumachina's expression was as she started talking since she was hiding her face with the cloth, but she raised an uneasy voice.

"Everyone seems to be agitated for some reason. Could there have been some sort of incident?"

Alicia tilted her head.

"Certainly, it is different from normal. The Sixth District is a disorderly place, but this is abnormal. I have often done patrolling as a State Knight but, unless it was a festival or something, a crowd of this size is just.....Nn? What could that be?"

She pointed at something.

A dark red object could be seen at the end of the main street.

It was a size that filled up the width of the street, and thorns were growing out

of it.

Shera half-rose to her feet.

"It's a Dragon!"

"What was that!?"

Diablo closely observed the end of the street.

He did not possess eyesight as outstanding as Shera's, but it had a size that was plenty enough to make a distinction.

It was unmistakably a Dragon.

A yellow color close to gold.

So it was a Thunder Dragon. It was the fastest known large-type monster.

It was only a head.

It seemed to have been placed on a gigantic wagon. It was slowly advancing down the street. A red, white and purple flag was hung upon it.

The people were pushing in to try and get a glimpse at the gigantic Dragon.

Alicia called out to the coachman.

"It seems like things will be troublesome if we stand in that thing's way. Please bring the carriage to the edge of the street. If we let them pass, the crowds should also disappear."

No one had any objections to that.

Taking Lumachina into consideration, they wanted to avoid standing out as much as possible.

Diablo's group was surrounded by the crowds that lied in wait on the roadside, and gazed at the Dragon head that was being transported.

It was coming closer.

".....It sure is big."

Diablo muttered that.

It was much bigger than the Large-class that he deployed in his dungeon, and most likely had the size of a Huge-class.

When it came to Huge Dragons, since they weren't a size that could live in a burrow, it seems that they make ravines and rocky areas their living spaces. And then, their strength was proportionate to their size.

On the wagon that carried the Dragon head, six men and women were lined up shoulder to shoulder, and were making pleasantries to the crowd.

They had appearances of being Warriors and Magicians.

—So these guys were the ones that subjugated it.

The crowds repeatedly called out their names, and sent voices of praise towards them.

"Who are they?"

Alicia answered that question.

"They are newly assembled knights. They wear equipment that no one has ever seen before, and accomplish difficult quests with overwhelming power....."

"Are they not Adventurers?"

"Correct, they are of the 《Royal Palace Chivalric Order》—And the seven people that are chosen as the best even among them, they seem to be called the 《Seven Heroes》."

".....It would seem that there are only six people there though? Did they lose one in the subjugation?"

There were only six people standing in front of the Dragon's head and waving their hands.

"That is true, Allen-sama isn't there. He does not seem to be the type to get injured though."

"Allen?"

"Yes, and since he has the same name as the great Hero that subjugated the Demon King long ago, he is the reincarnation—or that is what people say."

"Is he a reincarnation?"

"I do not know but.....Couldn't it just be a coincidence? There are many boys that were named after the great Hero and were given that name by their parents after all."

It was an ambiguous story. However, he was probably strong if he was able to be called the Hero's reincarnation.

"What kind of guy is he?"

"Nn.....He is a bit of a strange person. I have no idea what he is thinking....."

Alicia, despite being the daughter of a Duke House and a State Knight, was a person who desired the Demon King's revival and the destruction of the the Races and could be considered as someone who others would "not know what she was thinking". Since she was making that sort of criticism, he was probably even greater in that regard.

She made an assertion.

"In any case, Allen-sama is—among the ones that King Dalesh employs, unmistakably the strongest knight."

"Hohou.....And his outward appearance? Tell me about it in detail."

"As I thought, Diablo-sama, you have an interest in strong people, don't you?"

"That is only natural."

—I need to be careful so that I don't get into a fight with them after all!

He had no ideas of personally jumping into danger, or going to meet with guys stronger than himself. To begin with, he had a personality where he wanted to shut himself away in his room if it were possible.

If that sort of dangerous knight was in town, he wanted to fully know his outward appearance, and avoid even meeting him.

She ended up having a pensive look on her face.

"Let's see.....Allen-sama's outward appearance is.....he has platinum hair that looks just like that....."

She sent her gaze out, and then froze up.

Slipping through the crowds and getting up close to the carriage that Diablo's group was in—a young man wearing a red robe approached.

His silver hair was ruffled like he was in a manga. His race seemed to be Dwarf as he had doberman-like dog ears that were standing up straight.

His age was around seventeen, and since he was young, he didn't have a bearded face. Some long hair stretched out from his cheeks.

He smiled. He was a considerably good-looking man, but since his expression was child-like, there was an amiability to it.

"Yo! Did ya call for me!?"

".....!?"

Alicia was speechless.

An unpleasant sweat went down along Diablo's spine.

".....Could it be, are you the one? The leader of the Seven Heroes, Allen?"

"Nn? I am Allen, but I'm not the leader, ya know?"

"Are you not the strongest one?"

"I hate bothersome things, ya see—. The commander, he does things like talking with the king, and making speeches in front of crowds of people, ya know.

That's impossible for me, I'm bad with talking with people after all."

While Allen was gently laughing, he scratched the base of his dog ear.

He was a young man that felt like he was easy to talk to, but they couldn't let their guards down. This guy was a knight of the kingdom, and a suitably influential person after all.

Going by the long sword on his waist, he was most likely a Warrior-type. Diablo wasn't exactly poor at close combat, but it wasn't an advantageous distance. Moreover, Rem and the others were behind him. He wanted to avoid hostilities.

He stealthily extended his hand to the pouch at his back.

Allen narrowed his eyes.

"Hey you, you look strong."

—You mean he was able to sense my level!?

If it was the game, a fair amount of information could be known from the status screen.

That sort of convenient thing wasn't in this other world, but in exchange, there were signs and ambiances that cannot be expressed on the screen of a PC. If one became experienced with it, it was possible to discern them.

He felt a nervousness that he had not felt for a while.

However, no matter who the opponent was, he could not break his Demon King role play!

Diablo raised the ends of his lips looking bad.

"Kukuku.....Would you like to experience my strength with that body of yours?"

Alicia made a surprised face.

Noticing that the situation had gone strange, Shera also turned her attention this way. And since Lumachina was aware that she had a position where she needed to conceal herself, she sent only her gaze this way.

Rose half-rose to her feet.

Only Horun, who was leaning her body out from the carriage, had her eyes glittering like a child and fixed her eyes on the dragon head.

Allen nodded his head looking delighted.

"Sure! This recent quest ended much more easily than I thought after all. I was feeling a bit unsatisfied."

He brushed away his robe, and extended his hand to the long sword on his waist.

Diablo clicked his tongue in his mind.

—What the heck, so this guy is a battle maniac!?

At this point, it was actually a joke, so let's stop this fight—There was no way he could say that.

Thinking about Lumachina, he didn't want to stand out though.

—So I have no choice but to fight huh.

Behind Allen who was about to draw his sword, a huge man stood there.

"You damned moronnnn!!"

With a *Gatsun!*, a large fist dropped on the top of Allen's head. A sound as if he was struck with an iron club was made.

"That hurtssss~!?"

Allen hurriedly turned around, and showed a bewildered expression.

"Wh, what the heck are ya doin'!? What'll ya do if I turn stupid?"

"You're already infinitely stupid! Tell me, what kind of Hero picks a fight with a spectator in the middle of the triumphal return parade!?"

".....Well, this guy, he seemed a bit strong, ya see."

He pointed his finger.

The gazes of Diablo and the giant met.

That man was tall, and had the impression of really being muscular. On top of having a mantle being hung from both shoulders, he wore a full body armor, so Diablo couldn't really tell though.

His race was Human.

Even though he was macho, if one looked only at his face, he seemed like a science otaku. He had his black hair in a seven three hairstyle, and wore black rimmed glasses. It was a face that looked like he would study mathematics in college or something.

He noticed Alicia who was next to Diablo, and made a surprised-looking face.

"Ah, the Cristela house's.....!? So they were your company."

"Good work on your subjugation mission."

"Looks like we've troubled you once again."

"No....."

The giant wearing science glasses lowered his eyebrows, and once again turned towards Diablo.

"I am the one entrusted with the position of commander of the 《Royal Palace Chivalric Order》, Marquis Maximum Abrams."

"It would seem that the discipline of your subordinate is insufficient, isn't it, Commander?"

".....I am terribly sorry, it seems that his fighting spirit became too full of vim and vigor immediately following the subjugation mission. Since I will make him reflect on it plenty, I would like to ask for your forgiveness for this impoliteness."

"Hmph.....My interest has dampened."

Saying that over his shoulder sounding bored, he leaned his back on the carriage chair.

This was an attitude that wouldn't be strange to be censured as rude against a knight, but Abrams seemed to be a man that could discern reason.

"You have my gratitude for your tolerance."

After making a slight bow, he pulled the nape of Allen's neck, and headed towards the wagon that carried the dragon head.

—Thank goodness it didn't turn into a fight.

He was saved by the fact that Commander Abrams was a capable person.

It seemed that the surround crowds noticed the existence of the two heroes.

Old people seeking handshakes, women that burst into tears from too much excitement, boys raising loud voices.....The two sifted through the crowd while responding to all of them and returned.

Getting up onto the wagon, and being told something from the female companions, Allen made an embarrassed grin, and Abrams breathed a sigh.

The 《Seven Heroes》 was a party with a good atmosphere. It was transmitted that they trusted each other and got along well.

Diablo had a thought.

—I guess I really should have fought against him!

Alicia made a petition.

"By all means, although your anger is reasonable, please store it away for now. Creating turmoil here would be harmful for later."

"Ah, yeah.....I know that. I no longer have any interest."

Shera and Lumachina seemed to have been nervous and said things like "That sure did surprise me." and "Are you injured?".

Rose quietly put away her highly strung bloodlust.

Horun seemed to have noticed at this late point in time, and tilted her head.

"What happened -su ka?"

Part 6

Sixth District Inn 《Phoenix House》—

Although they called it an inn, it was a large and elegant hotel.

As expected of the royal capital. Even boarding houses aimed for Adventurers had extravagant structures. Of course, there were cheap inns in the neighborhood, but what was in front of them was a specially luxurious and gorgeous building.

Looking up at it, Shera leaked out a voice of admiration.

"It's amazing—"

"It's awesome -ssu! Is it alright for me to go in too -su ka!? Is it alright -su ka ne!? I won't be arrested for it!?"

Horun's tension was at its peak.

Rem, who had finally woken up, had her eyes go round and was trembling.

".....If we were to stay in a place like this, it feels like our travelling expenses would be immediately exhausted."

Lumachina tilted her head.

"But did we not receive a reward from Lord Lamnites?"

".....You might not know this being the High Chief Priest and all but.....Money is something that disappears if you use it."

"I, I know at least that much."

".....No, you don't. It would be a waste to use it on a place where you would only sleep."

Rose, who had no freedom on the ship and carriage for the reason of her being heavy, descended onto the ground, regained her attitude, and drew near Rem.

"What do you mean by a waste? It is the place that Master will be resting at, so isn't it only natural that it be of the highest grade."

".....Do you plan on making that precious Master go bankrupt? It would seem that you don't have a calculation function, being only a vacuum cleaner."

"To think that it's not only your chest that is thin but even the money in your

possession."

"Wha.....My chest has nothing to do with this!?"

Going *There, there*, Alicia calmed them down.

"Rem-sama, I apologize for the lack of a prior explanation. In regards to the lodging charges and the food and drink at the inn, I shall be taking responsibility for them. Please do not worry about the payment."

".....Is that alright? There are six people here, you know?"

Bring up the names, it was a large number of people that it seemed like at least one could be forgotten.

At this place, there was Diablo, Rem, Shera, Lumachina, Horun, Rose, and then, Alicia.

That Alicia made a pensive look—

Then, *pon*, put both of her hands together.

"I believe I have told you that I am the first-born daughter of the Crestela Duke House but, although I have not succeeded the family headship, I already bear the operations of several businesses. Even if it is just from my personal assets, I have as much as a district Feudal Lord."

".....Eh?"

"If Diablo-sama were to say that it was needed, I would be able to purchase this inn."

".....What, did you, say"

The worldly-wise Rem had her eyes go round.

Horun was in too much of another world that she didn't hear what they were talking about.

On the other hand, Shera and Lumachina weren't all that surprised. They had never had troubles with money before.

Diablo was relieved in his mind.

—Thank goodness she didn't say that we would have to pay the inn charges. There was no telling how many days it would take before Lumachina's case would come to an end.

Similar to Rem, Diablo also thought that "money would disappear if it was used", and was of the lower middle class that felt that staying in a high class inn was a luxury that went beyond their social position no matter how much they saved up.

Alicia checked her pocket watch.

"It is about time for dinner."

"Wah—, food!"

Shera ran off. Horun followed after her, and the rest of Diablo's group also entered the inn.

The lobby was more extravagant than the exterior.

In the grand room that went straight through without interruption, a stone statue of a phoenix adorned it.

For dinner, various dishes of cuisine that were devoted to luxury were lined up. Being an assembly of first-class ingredients from within the kingdom, cuisine that they had never seen before were lined up, and, moreover, it was all-you-can-eat.

Two hours later—

Shera's face had gone pale.

"I, I can't, anymore.....Goodbye.....Thanks for, everything up until now.....

Diablo.....Rem.....If I die, send me back to.....the forest....."

"Get ahold of yourself, Shera!"

Rem rubbed her back.

"Upusu"

Shera held down her mouth with both hands, and became teary eyed.

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"You ate too much."

".....So gluttonous."

The place they were at was one room at the inn.

Everyone had their own room, but this was a common room where everyone could gather apart from those. They had reserved the top floor.

—The things that the rich do are so.....

Changing the focus of his gaze, Horun, who was on the bed and had eaten to the point that the contour of her stomach had changed, was down for the count just like Shera and was lying down.

"Uguu, I can't eat anymore -ssu."

"I am embarrassed. This is something that not even my healing can fix....."

Lumachina made a dispirited face.

Rem breathed a sigh.

"It's because overeating is one of the sins in religion after all. With divine punishment having been handed down, I'm sure that they can't be saved with a miracle."

"It seems that is the case."

Only Rose was not in the common room and in the room that was given to her. She did not have normal meals, and the serving was perfectly performed by the inn's specialists.

As a result, she had nothing to do, and just returned to her own room.

Alicia called out.

"Diablo-sama, may I have a moment? It is about time for me to return to my estate. So before that....."

"Right."

Leaving Shera and Horun to Rem and Lumachina, Diablo returned to his own room.

Part 7

It was a single person room, but it was a wide room that seemed like six people could stay in it alone.

At any rate, a place that seemed like it was a room was an entry hall.

The meaning of it might not be understood, but there was an entry hall in this private room, and it was much more vast than a single room of a normal inn.

After passing through the entry hall and entering the room, it was decorated with paintings and large vases, and was gorgeous and luxurious.

Diablo went passed being surprised and went to being exasperated.

"It's as if it's a king's bedroom."

"Fufu.....The quality of the decorations aside, the design might not be all that different."

Alicia made a wry smile.

She approached near him.

"What is it?"

"I thought I would take your cloak."

"U, umu.....You are quite tactful."

He took his mantle, the 《Call of Darkness》, off.

The mantle that he had burned before, the 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》 had a Bad Status Prevention effect, and an effect where he would have one HP remaining. On this new mantle, the 《Call of Darkness》, it would bestow 《Fear》 on all enemies.

Since Bad Status effects didn't work on high level monsters in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, he habitually used the Dark Clouds, but in this other world, he often went up against low rank opponents.

According to the settings, 《Fear》 seemed to cause enemies to cower in fear—The effect in the game was that they would become unable to attack for a set amount of time.

Alicia hung that mantle on a coat hanger.

"Is this place to your liking? This room is a place where successful Adventurers lodge. By enjoying such extravagance, they are able to personally experience the success they acquired themselves. I am sure that it is for that sake that it has gone in the directing of having an excessive air of luxury."

"In that case, there is no meaning to staying here with another person's money."

"Fufu.....The other reason is for the sake of protecting important people. While you are at this inn, the High Chief Priest's safety will be kept."

"That is important."

"Even if you do not go outside, you can buy anything that can be purchased in this town, and it is possible to call physicians and beauticians to the room. There is no need to worry about her figure being seen by authorized people of the Church."

"It would seem that you have an understanding of the gist of the situation. Did Rem write that much in her letter?"

"No, it was only a few lines saying that your companions increased by three people, what your expected arrival date was, and that she "wanted to know about a secure inn". Other than that—I had known what the High Chief Priest's face looked like."

"Fumu."

He acted calm with his usual Demon King role play, but he was astonished in his

mind.

So from only that amount of information, she presumed that “there was an important person that should be protected”.

"No, wait. Lumachina's face should have been concealed though?"

"Fufu.....At that distance, it is enough as long as the eyes can be seen."

"So that's how it was."

Since Diablo was bad at remembering other people's faces, he couldn't tell just by the eyes but.....It seemed that Alicia was different.

Alicia poured water into a cup from a pitcher, added an aroma with a lemon, and placed it on the table.

"Here."

Diablo sat down on a sofa.

"First, I suppose I shall listen to your information."

"Since it is hard to say in a loud voice, would you mind if I sit down next to you?"

"I will allow it."

"Thank you very much."

She sat down next to him, and went into a distance where their shoulders were on the verge of touching each other.

Since they were probably going to have a talk where it would be problematic if they were heard by someone, he had given her permission but.....

She was close.

He was nervous.

Her interior was broken, but Alicia was a beauty. Moreover, right now, she was dressed up appropriate for the daughter of a noble.

She wore an elegant dress that had little skin exposure, but it instead was a “virgin killer”.

Clothes that kill virgins—What that is isn't in the shitty riajuu meaning of being clothes that are hard to figure out how to take off, but in the meaning that although they didn't have a slutty feeling and looked innocent, they were clothes that made an appeal of their femininity even like that.

Virgins inexperienced with women would shy away from women that exposed a lot of skin. It was because they gave off a feeling that the worlds they lived in were different.

—Well, even with women that wear neat and clean clothes, I thought that they didn't live in the same world as me though!

As Diablo's thoughts fell to the dark side, he was brought back with Alicia's voice.

She whispered into his ear.



"Ufufu.....Diablo-sama, thanks to you having disposed of the king's spy, it seems

that the matters about me haven't been reported."

With a sneer, she expressed a dark smile. Light was reflected, and her glasses shined in an orange color.

Making a complete change from the elegant expression she had on just before that moment, she seemed like a villain. She was deranged.

"I, I see....."

What she meant by the king's spy was the suspicious ninja. He had been attacked by that guy at the inn at Faltra City. Since it seemed like his companions would get injured if he went easy on him, he hit him with powerful magic and defeated him.

However, after he was praised by Alicia with that evil-looking face, he felt like he had done something inhuman. Since his true nature was that of a timid person, Diablo couldn't calm down.

Alicia bit her thumbnail.

"The achievement of having prevented the Demon King's revival at Faltra City which is at the national border was evaluated. However, I was made to take the blame for having relied on Adventurers, for how I was not there at the emergency, and for the death of the Holy Knight Sadraa whom I was accompanying."

"Hmph.....How incorrigible."

A court service was a terrible problem.

Preventing the Demon King's revival should have been an achievement good enough to compensate for such trivial blunders.

Since she didn't have any troops, it was only natural for her to procure the cooperation of Adventurers, and Sadraa was the villain that became the cause for the Demon King's revival.

—Well, but, the one that plotted for the Demon King's revival was Alicia.

That was a treasonous action against the entirety of the Races.

If the king were to know of that, far from making her take the blame, she would surely be executed immediately.

At the time of the Demon King's revival, it was a fact that she was nowhere to be found. It was because at that time, Alicia was together with the Demonic Beings preparing for the invasion of Faltra City.

"You are quite pitiable as well. You were condemned by the Demonic Beings for

the failure of the Demon King's revival, and even though it was prevented, you were made to take the blame by a king of the Races."

"Diablo-sama, it is just as you say—even though the one that prevented the Demon King's revival and changed my conclusion was you."

"U, umu.....So? After being made to take the blame, what happened?"

Since it seemed like he would end up bringing unnecessary trouble upon himself, he put the topic back on track.

Alicia gripped her skirt.

"I was made to take the blame but.....I am sure that it was judged that punishing someone who had an achievement would lead to a decline in morale. Right now, as recognition for such a significant task, I have received a long vacation."

"But that isn't that just the same as being confined to your home?"

"I am only unable to wear my State Knight uniform, and I am able to go out if I am in civilian clothes. That is how I was able to meet with you like this, Diablo-sama."

"That is true."

".....It is quite fortuitous that I was only given a long vacation. Among the State Knights, there are some that were transferred to the Local Knights or the army, while others were discharged."

"What do you mean by that?"

The State Knights were something similar to police. Was the public order good enough in the royal capital to decrease their number?

"It is because the Royal Palace Chivalric Order was formed."

"Fumu, I see."

He recalled the Seven Heroes that they got involved with on the main street. The dog-eared battle maniac Hero Allen, and the macho with glasses Abrams, huh. Also, the female companions.....

"With the Seven Heroes at the center, the Royal Palace Chivalric Order has over one hundred people, and it continues to increase."

"How are they different from the State Knights?"

"The State Knights place emphasis on race and pedigree....."

Come to think of it, the State Knights were said to be nothing but Human males. The female Alicia was an exception.

Allen was a Dwarf. A demi-human.

Since they gathered from a wide range, it was only natural that the war potential of the Royal Palace Chivalric Order would more substantial.

"I can understand but.....Even so, that is a strange story. If they require war potential, it should be fine if they added demi-humans to the State Knights. Why would they compose a separate organization?"

"I do not know that much....."

"Then investigate it. It bothers me."

"Certainly."

Standing up from the sofa, she lowered her head very deeply. After that, she sat down next to him once again.

She was conscientious in everything she did.

He brought the conversation back to Alicia's current situation.

"At any rate, so you are in the middle of taking time off, huh."

"Fufu.....I wonder how many years it has been since I had a summer vacation."

"You are surprisingly enjoying this, aren't you."

"Yes. Thanks to it, I am able to focus on investigating the misdeeds of the kingdom leaders. It is hard to enter military facilities with civilian clothes though, so it is taking some time to get a grasp on the arrangement of war potential."

—I'm not aiming to subvert the kingdom, you know!?

Alicia arbitrarily advocated the overthrow of the Lifelia Kingdom, and making Diablo the banner for it, she got excited about it.

The Demon King role play was a performance, and "although he took it seriously, it was for fun". Diablo was not a real Demon King, and he had no intention of destroying a kingdom of the Races.

"W, well.....Take it easy on that."

"I am grateful for your advice. It would be meaningless if the upper echelons had their eyes on me after all, so I shall be careful and act accordingly."

"I did not mean it that.....well, it is fine."

It seemed that Alicia's time off was substantially long.

This time, she came asking a question.

"Diablo-sama, the reason why you came to the royal capital, is there a problem related to the High Chief Priest?"

"Umu....."

Briefly, he explained Lumachina's circumstances.

Alicia's expression changed into something relentless.

"Unforgivable! The corruption of influential people is one of the things that I abhor. So it was not only in the vicinity of the kingdom, but the Church as well."

"Although we have not grasped the money flow of the upper echelon, but it is a fact that there was a murderous Holy Knight and a Holy Knight that undertook an assassination for money."

Going *Fumu*, Alicia thought about it.

"It is not like the corruption of an individual is unrelated to the corruption of an organization, but the methods of dealing with them differ. The corruption of an individual can be corrected by replacing the head, but I believe that the corruption of the organization would require a revision of the regulations."

"Ahh, umu."

It turned into a complicated discussion.

Diablo could endlessly repeat the same work, and did not suffer with things where numbers were lined up.

However, with things that involved a lot of people, his consciousness that said it was bothersome would take the lead. It was because there were many times where he was unable to sympathize with other people.

There were too many people that felt joy from obstructing the rights of other people despite there being no benefits to themselves. Since they indulged in the feeling of having reformed the world with that, it was already outside his realm of understanding.

Alicia made a proposal.

"In regards to the Church, I shall try investigating it. May I have a bit of time for that?"

Honestly, that would really help.

Diablo's group didn't even have a method to investigate.

It wasn't like he distrusted Lumachina, but she was a girl whose prejudices were a bit extreme. He wanted proof that it wasn't a misunderstanding.

Alicia was a State Knight, something similar to a police officer in the Lifelia Kingdom. Moreover, she was excellent enough to be selected to be one in spite of being a young woman.

Her ideology was a problem, but there was no question about her abilities.

"Very well, I shall leave it to you."

"Diablo-sama, I will definitely respond to your trust."

But then, saying "however", she continued her words.

"Once I have obtained evidence of their misdeeds, what shall we do after that?"
—I didn't think of that.

Saying something like that would be way too lame. Since that wouldn't be Demon King-like, he promptly thought about it.

"If there is evidence, then they should atone for their sins, should they not?
That is only natural."

"I concur, but there is no power to present the evidence to."

".....What?"

"The Church—it was given the 《Inquisition Right》 which allows them to carry about judgement at the Church for problems regarding religion. Even if a lawsuit is presented to the normal judiciary, it would probably work in favor of the Church."

"What folly."

"No matter how much reliable evidence is gathered, with the judge being someone on the Church's side, there is no way it will be found guilty."

"So the laws of this country were something like that."

"That is the same with the upper echelons of the kingdom. Even if their misdeeds were caught hold of, there is no power to present the lawsuit to either. It is for this reason that the influential people become corrupted."

Diablo remembered the history that he was taught in his original world.

Come to think of it—The separation of the government, religion, and the judiciary happened later in history. The culture of this other world was around the Middle Ages. It was an era where even stipulations of the law were dodgy.

"That sure is terrible."

"That is why, Diablo-sama, your power is necessary."

"My power.....?"

Alicia expressed a smile that looked like a flower had bloomed. She put both of her hands together, and put them next to her cheek.

"A purge of blood! Diablo-sama, with your power, we can bring down the hammer of justice on those devils wearing human skin, and reform the world

into a utopia! Demise! A great demise! Come on!"

"Ah, umu.....well, tonight, I will sleep though."

"Please excuse me for that. How could I have not realized.....You must be tired from your long trip, so please rest well."

He had known that Alicia was broken long before this.

Diablo breathed a sigh in his mind.

Part 8

Late at night.

Alicia had returned to her estate, and everyone else was resting in their respective given rooms—or that's how it should have been.

Rose lowered her head very deeply.

"I am terribly sorry for coming at a time like this. This Rose is prepared to receive any sort of punishment for disturbing Master's sleep."

"It is fine. For you to have paid me a visit, you must have business with me, right?"

"Yes.....Actually, my magical power has become scarce. It is at 30%."

Rose the Magimatic Maid seemed to move with Diablo's magical power. Magical power was, in other words, MP.

"What's the meaning of this? Wasn't it supposed to be restored if you are either at the base, the 《Demon King's Underground Labyrinth》, or near me?"

"During the journey, I was unable to stay near you all that much.....And the amount consumed in battle seemed to be larger."

"Fumu.....And by “close”, about how much distance does that mean?"

"About a distance where my hands can reach."

That, certainly is close.

Rem and Shera were positioned at Diablo's sides. And then, since they needed to be protected, he was always in front of Horun and Lumachina.

Since he entrusted the end of the line to Rose who he rely on for both offense and defense, she certainly was at a distance that couldn't be said to be “where her hands could reach”.

—Looks like I unconsciously thought that it would be recovered if she was just within the party.

He thought now after such a long time that not being able to see a status screen was inconvenient in one way or another. Not to mention, Rose was the type that did not show her fatigue on her face after all.

Without opening her heart to others, her sense of values was slightly off, and without showing distress on her face, she did not match her pace with anyone else.

"You are quite a pain as well, aren't you."

"Ah.....I am terribly sorry."

She had a communication disorder that went neck and neck with Diablo, didn't she.

—No, since she was an AI in the game, I guess it can't be helped.

Rather, when he thought that he himself was on the level of an AI, Diablo felt a bit depressed.

Pulling himself together, he continued the discussion.

"Well then, you can stay at my side tonight. Will that be alright?"

"Thinking that, I stayed at your side as you slept but....."

"H, hou....."

—So she was near me when I was sleeping! I had no idea.

When he thought about Rose's figure as she stared at him every night, putting it specifically, it was relatively horrific.

She would be reliable as a night watch though.

Rose talked sounding apologetic.

"It would seem that my magical power would not replenish as you were in the middle of your sleep."

"So it is no good when I am sleeping. There are surprisingly many restrictions."

"Uu.....To think I would become a burden to Master.....Rose is a defective piece of junk. By all means, please dispose of me however you wish. Kick me, or strike me."

"I'm telling you I won't!"

He unintentionally returned to his original self.

"Y, yes."

"Ahh, no.....Ahem! Considering your abilities, restrictions of that level could be

considered too light. I simply have to stay up throughout the night."

"No way, you mustn't, Master. That is harmful for your body."

"Fu.....Do not look down on me. Even if I do not have a night's sleep, that is nothing to me!"

It had been a long time since he pulled an all-nighter, and he even felt nostalgic about it.

In his original world, he had pulled all-nighters with the game day after day. Putting aside if they were to be travelling for a long time or going to have a decisive battle tomorrow, for the time being, he only had to wait for Alicia's report.

It was completely no problem at all.

However, Rose did not consent.

"Bringing harm to Master's health for the sake of this Rose, that would be a serious problem that concerns the meaning of my own existence, and feels like it would burn off my thought circuits from agony."

"That much.....?"

To Diablo, an all-nighter did not fall under being a hardship.

If an item did not drop in a limited-time event, he would pull an all-nighter as if it were only natural. It was enough that he was suspected by the other Players of either using prohibited tools or being a shared account among a large number of people.

Rose shook her head left and right.

"I have the fear that the lack of sleep will harm Master's health. There is the danger of inviting a serious ailment, and there is also the possibility of shortening your lifespan."

Those were words that seemed like warning text that was displayed from the administration whenever one played the game for too long. Along with that, an image authentication was required.

"I can't be helped. Well then, it will be fine if you stay nearby me tomorrow."

"There is also another method."

"What is it?"

When he asked that, her cheeks lightly dyed red.

"Rose, proposes a speed charge for this Rose."

"Speed? What sort of thing is it?"

"With a mere 30 minute act, a week's worth would be Master's.....No, the magical power would be filled"

"Is that true?"

"Nn.....Does Master doubt Rose's words? That Rose would make a lie to Master? Does Master suspect a breakdown of my thought circuits?"

"No, that's right. There is no way you would lie."

She did have an eccentric speech and conduct, but the actions of this Magimatic Maid were all believed to be for the sake of Diablo.

"Thank you very much."

"What do I have to do?"

"Specifically, I would receive magical power not through being close, but through touch."

"Fumu.....Certainly, it seems like much more would be transmitted that way. So do I just have to touch you?"

Would it be alright if he just patted her head or something?

Rose nodded.

"Yes, well then—May I ask you to do this?"

"I do not mind. I just have to touch you for 30 minutes, right?"

"That will depend on you, Master."

"Hmph.....Do not underestimate my magical power. I shall pour in so much that you shall be overflowing with it!"

"Hau.....My knees are shivering with anticipation.....Nn"

Diablo's heart skipped a beat from that sexy sigh of hers.

However, she was a Magimatic Maid. In other words, since she was a machine, it would be strange to see her as a target for such indecent misconduct. It would be something like having lust for a vacuum cleaner.

Going *Fuu~*, he took a deep breath and calmed down.

"What should we do for the location? Should we use the bed?"

Whenever he poured magical power into Rem and Shera, they used places where they could lie down.

Rose shook her head.

"Excuse me, the bed is....."

—Crap. Suddenly having a girl lie down on a bed, that is way too impolite, isn't it! To think that it would be this embarrassing to be rejected! I want to die!

"Ahhhh, th-th-that's right! The bed is no good, isn't it!"

"I am terribly sorry even though you took me into consideration. It is because it seems as though the bed would get crushed if this Rose were to get on top of it."

"Ah.....Yeah.....I see."

She was considerably heavy.

It seemed that she was much heavier than a fully equipped knight riding a warhorse.

Even if it was a bed that could endure a giant person, it would be impossible with her. It would break.

Rose turned her back towards him and placed her hands on the wall.

"Master.....Um.....If possible, from behind....."

Her cheeks turning red, she stuck out her butt.

—This is a bit indecent, isn't it.

Diablo had gotten nervous, but this was just supplying magical power to a companion. It seemed to be something called a Speed Charge.

It was wrong to associate it with something strange.

"Is it alright if I just touch your back? Nn? Come to think of it.....Right now, are those massive hands no here?"

"Massive hands.....you say?"

"It comes out from behind whenever you get serious, Rose. A mechanical arm that holds a double-headed sword."

"Ah.....That is the 《Magimatic Soul》[\[1\]](#). It is currently stored in a gap of the world."

"Is it not in this world?"

"I believe that is the case."

"In that case, why are you so heavy?"

"Erm.....This Rose's weight is due to having a 《Dimension Transcending Apparatus》 equipped in order to call out the 《Magimatic Soul》."

"What? Then you being heavy has no relation to that arm?"

"Since the 《Magimatic Soul》 has “the weight of a Type 10 Tank”.....Ara? What could a hito maru shiki sensha be? I am terribly sorry, some mysterious wording was in my memory database....."

".....No, it is fine. Don't worry about it."

"Y, yes."

It would seem that there are some discrepancies in the settings inside of the game and her memories in regards to this other world.

Diablo was not a military otaku, but since he had also played an FPS where currently used weapons appeared, he had a fair amount of knowledge about that sort of thing.

Japan's latest model of the Type 10 Tank had a weight of 44 tons.

—Like that, it's no wonder even the sand ship tilted when she took that arm out.

If it is just her, even a carriage could carry her, but when she takes out the 《Magimatic Soul》 when it's time for battle, she has a substantial amount of weight.

"At any rate, Rose, that means that you currently are not burdened with that, right?"

"Yes."

"Well then, I guess we should start."

He stood at her back.

He extended a hand towards her back that didn't have a single scratch.

Her skin seemed transparent, but there was some sort of metal attached. It wasn't like it was stuck on like a sticker, but more like it was buried in her skin. Maybe it was done through some very powerful fixation method, or maybe it stretched down deep into her body.

When he carressed the metal part, the muscles along Rose's spine trembled.

"Nnfuu....."

"It doesn't hurt, right?"

"Correct. But, if it is you, Master, I would not mind no matter how painful it was....."

"No.....If it hurts, then be sure to tell me."

"Thank you very much. How amazingly kind....."

"I guess I will pour magical power right away."

By coming into contact with someone, Diablo was able to read the flow of their magical power. It was due to having learned it from a slave trader after having come to this other world.

Rose was completely different from people.

People would have magical power swirling about throughout their whole body, and would have different shades within that. There were individual differences, but the centers of the swirls would be at the heart and the belly button.

The magical power of the Magimatic Maid converged at her abdomen.

—If I were to touch and pour into these metal parts, would it reach her central part?

He tried pouring a bit of magical power from his hand but.....Rose didn't have much of a response.

Was it not enough at all?

Rose talked with a sigh mixed in.

"Um.....That place, is the 《Dimension Transcending Apparatus》, so....."

"Ooh, is that so."

"I am terribly sorry.....Since that is Rose's delicate place, when Master's magical power is poured in there.....it....."

"I, I get it. Just tell me what it is you want me to do. I shall do that."

"Just as you say, Master.....Howah....."

Rose's cheeks blushed. *Kokun* Her slender neck gulped. She stared at him with a gaze that carried heat.

It was making even Diablo feel nervous.

"Now then, go on and tell me."

"W.....well then, please excuse me....."

She undid a hidden button of her skirt. Her skirt smoothly fell down.

Her stuck out butt became exposed.

Although the important parts were just barely concealed with underwear that looked like black string, it really was just barely.

"Fuah!?"

"Master.....Just like this.....If you would please, stand behind me."

"Bufuoh!"

"U, um, Master?"

"Wha!? Wh, what do you mean by that!?"

"Ah.....I am terribly sorry. So you did not have any experience. In other words, if you stand"

"I know that! Although I don't have any experience, I don't need you telling me that! Rose, you, do you really require that!?"

The MMORPG Cross Reverie was a game that targeted all ages. It were as if all of the R18 factors of this other world were removed.

It's no wonder the impementation of the features of the Magimatic Maids didn't advance!

Rose went red even at the ears.

".....If I could have you touch a place close to the 《Magical Power Core》, there should be no problem with whatever part you decide to touch it with, Master. Since this Rose also has no practical experience, the design is.....It would turn into that sort of story but....."

"So that's how it was."

The Magical Power Core that she mentioned was probably the "center of the swirl of magical power" that he saw earlier.

"If you can put it into the deepest place I can receive it, any part of Master would be fine."

"Umu."

"Merely, if you were to suddenly insert as far as your wrist, the fear of damage would....."

"I won't put that in!"

"Y, yes, I am terribly sorry."

Rose's shoulders were trembling.

—Not good, I shouted a bit too much.

Rose was just explaining her own methods after all.

However, why, why did it turn into such an erotic maid method? Unfortunately, a 《Query to the Administration》 function did not exist in this world.

A menu screen didn't appear either to begin with.

If only there were a query function in the real world as well. If only it were possible to protest bugs that didn't advance the story at all in life.

Diablo took a deep breath and calmed his feelings.

And when he looked after recollecting himself.....

It was an incredible situation.

Rose was sticking out her butt, and had matched it right at the height of Diablo's waist. Her precious spots were covered only with underwear that looked like string.

"....."

"U, um.....Master.....Rose is at the height of happiness even if you are just looking, but if you do not touch me, then my magical power will not recover."

"I kn-kn-know that!"

Diabou grabbed Rose's waist with both hands.

—So soft!?

Her skin was slightly sweaty, and it felt as if heat was being transmitted from inside of her.

Just by pouring in magical power from the hands that grabbed her, the muscles along Rose's spine trembled.

"Haahn!"

"O, ou....."

"FuaAaUuu.....It is amazing. To think I would be able.....to feel Master's magical power this closely....."

"I see."

"Kufuun, it's amazing.....Nnn.....If I get inserted with this.....W, with just that, Rose just might be able to reach it."

Could she have meant that her magical power replenishment would "reach" a full tank!

"HAA, HAA.....Suu—.....HA!"

No matter how many deep breathes he repeatedly took, Diablo was in a state far from being calm.

—This sort of thing is impossible.

If he had the courage to be calm and touch a woman in this situation, he might have been able to walk a slightly better life.

Being a person that, when asked "Should I heat up your obento?" by a female convenience store clerk, would answer with a strange reply like "Hya hya", he was bad at inter-personal actions.....especially with females.

—Wrong! I am mistaken! Right now, I am Diablo. A Demon King of another world. It is possible if it's a Demon King doing it! It should be possible!

He had also touched a woman before in a ritual.

In order to bring out the soul of the Demon King Krebskrem that was sealed within Rem, he had poured magical power "to an even deeper place" in a similar manner.

He brought the middle finger of his right hand to Rose's butt.

"Yosh, prepare yourself, Rose!"

Opposite from his assertive words, he had completely gotten cold feet.

Diablo's field of vision blurred with tears. Being unable to look her in the eyes, he groped around, avoided her underwear, and searched for "the Magimatic Maid's magical power spout".

A depression was touched by his fingertip.

—Here!?

With a twitch, the muscles along Rose's spine convulsed.

"M, Master!? That place is!?"

"Just l-l-leave it to me!"

Tsupu His fingertip entered a narrow hole.

It was tight to the point of hurting a bit.

—It feels a bit different from before, doesn't it? No, no, there might be individual differences? To begin with, Rose is a Magimatic Maid. Of course she is different from the people of the Races!

That thought whirled about inside of his head.

Rose was starting to faint in agony.

"HYAGUuUUuu.....M, Master.....AH, AAAaah.....That place is....."

"Deeper, right!? If I don't go in deep, it won't get close to the core after all!"

"Ha, hahi.....Ah, nn, I'm losing.....strength, in my legs....."

Rose's knees trembled.

Her waist came falling down.

She scratched the wall with her fingernails.

"O, oi oi, Rose!?"

If the other party were a normal woman, even if it looked like she was going to collapse, he would support her with his open left hand.

However, Rose had the weight ordinary for a fully equipped cavalryman.

Even if Diablo was level 150, it was difficult for him to handle her with one hand.

Inevitably, he put strength into his right hand that had a finger crammed into her as well. It was there that Rose herself put her body weight.

His finger reached so deep inside that he started to feel anxious and wonder "Is this alright?"

He touched the 《Magical Power Core》 that was in her abdomen.

Rose's spine bent backwards.

She raised a high pitched scream.

"ツ.....AH, AAAAaaaaaaaAAaaaaah!!"

Ever since he heard about having to supply magical power, he had expected it, but it was a voice that seemed like it could be heard in the other rooms of the inn.

Gaku Rose collapsed from exhaustion.

This time for sure, all of her weight was placed on both of Diablo's hands.

"Uoooh!?"

If he were a normal Human, she might have taken his taken his arms off.

Somehow, he was able to slowly bring her down to the floor without letting her crash into it.

"Ze—.....Ze—.....Ze—.....Rose, you sure are heavy."

She fell prostrate and lied down.

A 'P ! ' sound was made.

It was the same electronic sound that was made when Rose had frozen up like a stone statue before from running out of magical power.

'Intense contact with the Master confirmed—Current charge percentage at 120%.'

".....I see. So she's full? Thank goodness."

Diablo made a deep exhale, and then sat down on the sofa.

He looked down on Rose who was lying down on the floor.

She had a happy looking sleeping face.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#)

Written as 魔導機兵 and read as マギマテックソル. The ソル might stand for the beginning of soldier so it might supposed to be Magimatic Soldier.

Chapter 2: The Grand Chapel

Part 1

One week later—

After not showing herself for a short while, Alicia came by together with a large amount of luggage just before noon.

Using servants, she had a whole cart's worth of wooden boxes carried to the common room.

She was in her white dress appearance today as well, and was wearing her glasses.

"I have kept you waiting, Diablo-sama!"

"Going by that look of yours, it would seem you have grasped something."

"Yes."

First, calling one of the inn's employees, they had a couple people's worth of black tea prepared. White vapor rose up from the tea cups that were placed on the table.

With Diablo at the center, Rem, Shera, Lumachina and Horun sat at the sofa. Rose was standing alongside the wall.

Alicia opened up one of the wooden boxes. Inside, there was a vast amount of documents.

"I followed the flow of capital inside of the church over the past few years."

"Hou....."

"Especially the private funds of the seven people of the Cardinal Institute who are the top brass. It seems that while they took in large amounts of donations, they made a majority of that part of their personal assets."

"Is that even a religious crime? That's sheer theft, isn't it."

"It is because it is happening within the Church."

After hearing Diablo and Alicia's talk, Lumachina half rose up from the sofa.

"Just how in the world did you investigate that!?"

Going *fu*, Alicia smiled.

"High Chief Priest, it is not something you should concern yourself with....."

"I beg of you, please tell me. I also tried to investigate something similar. But I couldn't even get a hold of a clue about it."

"Nnu....."

Alicia made a pensive look on her face.

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"Dirty means are also needed in order to carry out one's ideals. This is surely a chance for her to learn that. There is also no need to worry about it leaking out if it is the people here. Go and tell her about it."

"Understood. This was all obtained through various means but.....Mainly, it was through bribery and sedition."

"With just money, and words.....?"

"Of course the people of the Cardinal Institute wouldn't sell out their comrades for a small amount of compensation. However, what about the people around them?"

"In the church, the believers carry out their daily responsibilities. There is no way they would move for something like money."

"It is because the believers would not do actions that would go against God after all."

"The ones who look after the everyday necessities of me and the Cardinal Institute are only those who had been judged to have particularly deep faith. Only a limited number of believers can enter the Inner Court."

"Thanks to that, I was able to identify the places there would be secrets, and it was very simple."

"Simple!?"

"The believers that are able to enter the Inner Court, they are called White Masks within the church, correct? Since they have masks on when at the Inner Court."

"Yes.....To have no individuality before God, to have neither gender, variety, nor beauty or ugliness in outward appearance and be equal, that is the meaning of it."

Horun raised up one hand.

"In that case, if we put on those masks, we'd be able to go in as much as we'd like, wouldn't we -su ka ne!"

Alicia shook her head left and right.

"Naturally, the Church's side is also aware of that. It seems that there is a place where the masks are put on, and they check to see whether or not they are a different person."

"Then it's super impossible -ssu."

"Fufu.....And with that, the ones chosen as White Masks are very devout, aren't they?"

Lumachina nodded at Alicia's words.

"It is just as you say. There is no way they would respond to something like bribery."

"Like I said, I used sedition."

—It turned into a complicated discussion.

Diablo surveyed his companions.

Rem was keeping silent, but she looked like she had slightly realized the means that Alicia had taken.

Shera had no clue.....or rather, she had dropped out from the conversation early. Since she had eaten a lot at breakfast, she looked a bit sleepy.

Lumachina and Horun were seriously listening, but they didn't get it.

Rose was expressionless as usual.

Alicia continued the conversation.

"I have no intention of putting on airs—so I shall talk about the process from step one. First, I offered a bribe to the White Mask believers. However, the one to make the offer wasn't me, but a bargainer that I could trust. And what they did was say "Since I want to hand over a bribe to the Cardinal Institute, I want you to be the go-between" to them."

Lumachina's eyes went round.

"What was that!?"

"Several of the White Masks went along with it. Since it would be to the Cardinal Institute's benefit. Psychologically speaking, rather than saying it is for 'the sake of exposing evil deeds', many were their cooperative workers from the start."

"No way.....I mean, that would go against the Church's regulations....."

"One's status in the Church is influenced by the impression of the Cardinal Institute has of them. In order to curry favor with them, both faith and the regulations don't matter—It seems that there are many people that feel that

way."

"Kuh.....How could this be....."

"What's important are the serious believers who refused it. The offer to obtain a large amount as a reward, as well as be highly valued by the Cardinal Institute. The straight-laced people that say "the regulations are important" and would refuse that sort of temptation."

"Were there any?"

"They were found surprisingly easily. With those straight-laced people, this time, I sought for "cooperation to search for bribery"."

"Ah....."

"The bribes—they were not for the sake of obtaining cooperative workers, but for the sake of discovering the straight-laced people that would not go along with it. It means that I used bribes in order to discover people who could prioritize the law over realistic profits."

"So that's how it was!"

Lumachina greatly assented to it, and nodded her head several times.

Both Rem and Shera also looked impressed.

—I think that was a fine hand to play.

However, Diablo found that to be unconvincing.

"Those sort of straight-laced people, how many of them did you discover?"

"Fufu.....So you noticed. Unfortunately, there weren't that many of them."

"With a few number of people, in a mere week, all while doing this stealthily, and most likely having to search through an enormous amount of data, you were able to carry up this many documents?"

Alicia expressed an evil smile.

"As expected of you, Diablo-sama. Actually, a lot more pieces under my control were prepared with a different measure. —They are the White Masks that were "greedy for larger rewards" when they were bribed."

"ツ!?"

Lumachina swallowed her breath. Hearing that a greedy person was recognized as being deeply pious, she surely received a shock.

Alicia continued her explanation.

"To the greedy ones, it was conveyed that "proof of bribery would be bought" with money."

"There must have been a considerably large number of people then."

"It wasn't just a few."

"So it's something like within the organization called the Church, there is a different organization collecting evidence. You do some absurd things since you have money to make bribes."

"If the people of the Cardinal Institute had bestowed large sums of money as a reward to the common people, this would have been impossible but.....Well, lumps of selfishness that would enrich their own pockets with bribes would never do something like that."

"Are they not paid?"

"Practices of simplicity and frugality are sought from the believers. It seems that while taking in large amounts of donations, a majority is stored into pockets, and the Church is made to go into the red for many years."

"That's an outrageous story."

"Similar offenses can be seen even in the local areas. The Head Priest would commit embezzlement, and would not even go towards chapel repair expenses."

"Fumu."

"The problem with the Church is that they cannot be judged by a State Knight though."

"Leave what lies beyond that to me."

"Fufufu....."

Alicia made a delighted looking face.

He had no intention of performing the bloody punishment that she was imagining but.....

—I still haven't decided on what I would do.

In games, no matter what the story, the enemies were presented in an easy to understand way, and would lead to a happy ending if they were defeated.

Reality was not that simple.

At any rate, she had skillfully made use of the believers. He decided to check the data that she gathered with her stratagem.

He took out a document from a wooden box.

The date, the sender, the amount of money—and then, what was desired were written on it.

The rights to do business at festivals, the selling of plots of land owned by the Church, favorable treatment in the priest dispatchment to other regions..... These were the better ones—There were things like having false oracles made against business competitors and having them close down, or like having a priest promoted from a disagreeable neighboring territory.....Most of them were similar to curses.

Among them, there were also shitty requests saying things like “they themselves were suitable men, so they want an oracle to get the woman in their hearts”.

The churches in the Lifelia Kingdom not only spread the religion, but they also perform the duties of being hospitals, schools, and banks.

To think that it would be this corrupt.....

Diablo wrinkled his brow.

"This sure is terrible."

"What is more serious than all else is—that the Cardinal Institute leaves these sorts of documents behind. Even if their evil deeds are exposed, they surely have confidence that they can crush any opposition."

"The 《Inquisition Right》, huh."

Alicia nodded.

Rem tightly clenched her fists and stood up.

".....Unforgivable."

"That's right!"

Shera also got angry, unlike how she usually is.

Horun also raised her voice.

"This! Since there weren't any donations from Zircon Tower City, they wouldn't dispatch any priests—that's what's written here -ssu. That's terrible -ssu!"

Only Rose acted like it had nothing to do with her.

Lumachina held down her eyes with both hands.

"Uu.....Kuh....."

Could it be, was she crying?

Even if Diablo and the others thought that it was upsetting, they didn't feel sad about it.

It was either a difference in awareness of those related, or a difference in personality.

Lumachina groaned.

"It's so.....frustrating."

"Eh?"

"I.....Even though these sorts of things were happening.....I was unable to stop them, at all."

Within her hand, a single document was being crushed.

She was squeezing out a voice that sounded like she was going to vomit blood.

"So frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating, so frustrating....."

Diablo placed his hands on the trembling Lumachina's shoulders.

"Calm down."

"Uuu....."

As she looked his way, tears came spilling out from Lumachina's eyes. This was his first time seeing such a fierce expression from this young girl.

She asked with a tearful voice.

"Diablo-sama.....why do people.....? Even though, there is bread to eat, in the morning, when they wake up, why, do they desire more than that?"

A silence spread out.

Shera muttered.

"That's so true.....Even though it would be enough if we just had fruits and berries."

".....To desire more than just to live, that is what they call greed."

Rem breathed a sigh.

Maybe because she was overawed by the serious tears, Horun kept silent.

Alicia kneeled in front of Lumachina.

She addressed her with a gentle expression.

"Don't you get it already? The Races are unsightly existences. At this point, they have no other path to salvation other than the destruction of them."

".....Destruction."

"A purification by the Demon King is required."

".....Purification."

Lumachina muttered.

Diablo made a chop at the back of Alicia's head.

"Stop that."

"Au!?"

Listen—is what he said to Lumachina.

"People are creatures that aim high. Even now, they do not stop and strive for areas that no one has reached. But that does not go for all of them, you know? Rather, there are exceedingly few that are like that but.....not knowing satisfaction, and overflowing with things like ambition, longing, and perseverance, people that always seek improvement do exist. That is the potential of people, as well as their development, and their defiance. However, there are also times where that spirit goes off in the wrong direction. They would abuse vested interests, look down on others, steal, or make others suffer. Both the villains of the Cardinal Institute and the Heroes that stand up against the Demon King, in a certain sense, they are people that possess “infinite ambition”."

"I don't understand.....In that case, Diablo-sama, are you saying that the Cardinal Institute's deeds are not evil?"

"No, they are evil. They make me sick to my stomach. But they are evil because they “committed a crime”. Not because they were not satisfied with having their morning bread. Aspirations are not a sin. What should be punished is their crimes of accepting bribes and misappropriating the Church—That is where you should not mistake one thing for another."

".....Yes, that is true.....There, was something wrong with me."

"After receiving a shock, a person's thoughts become extreme. It is something that tries to give excessive punishment."

"I shall keep that in my heart. I, am ashamed of myself."

"Hmph.....There is a need to change, but there is no need to feel ashamed. That is also something born from your burning desire of wanting to correct the Church. It is the result of your aspiration. It is because of those feelings that everyone is trying to cooperate with you."

Lumachina wiped the corner of her eyes, and let out a smile.

"Thank you very much.....Having you say that, my feelings have been saved." Putting her hands together in front of her chest, she held her holy symbol close. Come to think of it, it seemed that she still believed that Diablo was God. —Although I said that sounding all self-important, someone like me is just a big liar.

He had talked so long on the spur of the moment, but now he suddenly felt embarrassed. He became worried about whether or not everyone around him would sneer at him.

Rem nodded.

".....As expected of Diablo. His opinions are quite deep."

"Although I don't really get it, in any case, we just have to take out the bad guys!"

Shera was simple as always.

Horun as well, maybe because the air of the room had relaxed, she energetically pushed a fist out.

"Me too, I'll be useful in something -ssu!"

"Fufu.....That is certainly true, crimes must be punished....."

He couldn't tell how much she listened in to, but Alicia was still expressing a dark smile.

She brought out a rough sketch.

Being thoroughly prepared, it was a blueprint of the Grand Chapel.

"Diablo-sama, like this, the evidence has been gathered, but they cannot be judged with the law—From here on, we will have to rely on your great strength."

"Good grief, so it comes to that.....It might become a bit violent though."

Next to him, Lumachina raised her hand.

"Please wait. Won't you please give me just one more chance?"

"Fumu?"

"What do you intend on doing?"

Lumachina revealed her firm resolution and answered.

"With this evidence—I shall excommunicate the people of the Cardinal Institute!"

Part 2

They ended up deciding to depart after lunch but—
Documents weren't the only thing that Alicia brought with her.

"Please try using this."

It was robes that were dark brown and had green bordering. Putting on the hood, it would conceal as far as the ankles. It was a garment that would make them look like teru teru bouzus.

They seemed to be what the believers of the Church used.

Rem nodded.

".....I see, those will certainly be needed."

"Why?"

Shera tilted her head.

Horun seemed to understand.

"If we're going to go together with Lumachina-san, it would be bad with everyone's appearance -ssu. It's indecent -ssu."

Ahh, I see—saying that, Shera hit her hands together.

"For Rem, she has an appearance that looks like she's naked after all!"

".....What stupid thing are you saying. What I have is something called "easy-to-move-in equipment". Shera, your useless meat is much more obscene."

"It isn't useless! And it can't be helped, that's just how they grew, right!? And what about Lumachina-chan, she's just as big, isn't she!?"

"Hie!?"

Having been unexpectedly pointed out, Lumachina covered her chest with both of her arms.

Rem turned a cold gaze towards her.

".....I do believe that it is a body unbecoming of one of the clergy though."

"Is, is it really.....that much?"

"Well, Lumachina should be fine since she is known by the believers as well as the High Chief Priest. However, if the people accompanying her were to hold bows and swords in their hands, and wear armor, they would give off an intimidating air when idle. So there is a fear that as a result of that, the words to the believers would be transmitted to them in a warped fashion."

Alicia nodded.

"That is how it is. Horun-sama is a child, and since Rose-sama does not have the appropriate garments for the Church....."

"Are you saying, that this Rose has made some sort of mistake?"

Your back is completely exposed, and even the sides of your breasts can be

seen—surely Diablo wasn't the only one to make that retort in their mind.

Alicia persuaded the displeased-looking Rose.

"I am sure that Diablo-sama desires it as well."

"! Is this true, Master?"

Having the discussion suddenly turned towards him, he was bewildered.

However, if Alicia was the one saying it, then there was surely no mistake about it. That it was something that was needed.

"Well, having something like equipment that is a good match with the enemy's attribute certainly is correct."

"As you command. If it is you, Master, that tells me, then I shall take on any sort of appearance! If you tell me to strip, then I shall strip! Haa, haa....."

"We are going to the Church, you know?"

She was a Magimatic Maid whose head and clothes buttons were occasionally loose.

Alicia grinned.

"It truly is great that you understand. Diablo-sama, I had thought that you would say that you would not want to change your own appearance."

"What.....? Me too?"

Isn't that only natural, is the face that Rem expressed which implied that..

".....Rather, I believe that is the biggest problem."

"Yup, yup. If Diablo were to go with that appearance, it would look like Lumachina-chan came back bringing along the Demon King after all."

On a rare occasion, Shera was in agreement with Rem.

Horun also nodded.

"Yeah, that's how it would feel -ssu ne! She would feel like a vengeful High Chief Priest -ssu! That she fell to darkness -ssu!"

—Would it be the Black Lumachina (SSR (Double Super Rare)) Attribute 《Darkness》 Skill, 'Demon King Summon'? That in itself sounds like something a gacha would have in it, is what Diablo thought.

Bringing back his derailed thoughts, he once again looked down on his own equipment.

Devilish armor, and a jet black mantle huh.

And above all, horns.

Even for Diablo who had a considerable communication disorder, he had known

long before any troubles happened that the place called the Church would have a bad affinity with his Demon King role play.

In order to avoid any problems before they happen, it was probably best to conceal the horns that grew on his head.

—In truth, I can take them off, but that's a secret even to Rem and Shera.

He had completely missed the timing to tell them about it.

Diablo was wearing equipment called the 《Distorted Crown》. Not only did this have an Automatic HP Recovery effect, it had an extra characteristic of “making it look like he was growing horns”.

"Hmph.....It can't be helped. I shall put on the cloth. Only because at a time where the Holy Knights come with brute force, having only all of you there would be insufficient."

Lumachina possessed evidence, and also had power. The Cardinal Institute should be trying to eliminate her with force. Protecting her from that threat was the duty of Diablo's group.

"Everyone, thank you very much."

And so, everyone except Lumachina ended up putting on the robes.

However, Alicia was different.

"I, shall step down here."

"Eh—!?"

Shera was surprised, and Rem asked her a question.

".....Was there some sort of problem?"

"If it was known that a State Knight in the middle of their absence from work had intervened in a problem of the Church, my situation would be in danger. Besides, if interference to the Church by means of royal authority were to be taken, I am sure that it would be undesirable for Lumachina-sama as well."

".....That certainly is true."

It was a reason they could agree to.

Lumachina stood in front of Alicia.

"I am truly grateful to have received your great amount of assistance for the sake of the Church."

"I only wished to be helpful to Diablo-sama and Rem-sama. For I have that much of an obligation to them."

"So that is how it was. But, that does not change my feelings of gratitude."

After a small hesitation, Alicia opened her mouth.

"Finally—May I ask one question?"

"Yes."

"Putting it bluntly, the believers in the Grand Chapel, the people of the town, as well as the king, the nobles, and the commoners.....All of those people, it is questionable as to whether they truly possess “piety”. Isn’t their praying merely selfishness in wanting a peace of mind? Why is it that, you believe—that there is value in saving them?"

"Love thy neighbor—That is what God said. There is no prerequisite to love them. No matter who the person is, if I believe that there is something I can do, then I will extend my hand to them."

Without any signs of being troubled, Lumachina answered.

"Your saving of the believers, wouldn’t that be called self-satisfaction?"

"It could be called that as well. If the people can live feeling “I am being saved”, then that makes me happy."

"Even if you yourself die for the sake of the their salvation?"

"If possible, I believe that I want to stay around for many years to come for the sake of the people though....."

Lumachina, without being bashful nor boastful, smoothly replied with that.

Alicia smiled. It was not her villainess smile, rather, it was a feeble expression that had an air of fleeting to it.

"As I thought, you are different from me....."

"I wonder if that is true? Alicia-san, I thought that you and I were quite similar though. We truly are similar."

".....Is that, so."

Without adding any more to the conversation, Alicia place her right hand on the left side of her chest, and bowed very deeply.

She retired to her estate.

Part 3

The winds of autumn could be felt.

Before they noticed, it was already October.

The area around the royal capital headed towards winter and it suddenly became cold.

The top of the bridges that extended between the districts received especially strong winds.

Diablo held down the hood that covered his head.

Rem, Shera, Horun, and Rose also wore similar outfits.

Lumachina also wore one.

The plan was for her to confront the Cardinal Institute as the High Chief Priest, but the troubles would increase if an uproar were to suddenly happen.

Right now, she had a hood on and was concealing her identity.

The evidence of the Cardinal Institute's evil deeds were placed on a wagon and pulled by a horse. Rem was gripping those reins.

".....This is the place, isn't it."

The Twelfth District—

After crossing the bridge, the entire district was the Grand Chapel.

The gate that was there had its doors opened, and there wasn't anyone that seemed like a gatekeeper. It seems that it's closed at night though.

It was a declaration that they would accept anyone.

Surprisingly, a normal town spread out before them.

Since there were mostly no signboards, the atmosphere was different, but there were also restaurants, as well as shops that sold accessories and clothes. Lumachina explained.

"Those are run by the believers, and a majority of the sales are donated. There are many customers that come to do some shopping from other districts as well."

".....There sure are a lot of clothes and shoes stores. Moreover, they are really cheap. They are close to half the market price."

"It's true. Those sandals, I might want them!"

Rem and Shera were surprised.

"It is because the manufacturers are believers as well. The store buildings are loaned out by the Church, and rent isn't taken."

".....With the expenses of both manufacturing and marketing kept at a minimum, and not having any rent for the store building either, it's no wonder

that the prices are abnormally cheap."

"Both the food and the place to live, they are supplied from the Church at no charge. The people that live here are given some sort of duty, and it is made so that they have no troubles living here."

"That's amazing!"

Shera clapped her hands.

Horun also gave high praise.

"Seriously -su ka!? Both the grub and the bed are free -ssu ka!? It's heaven -ssu!"

".....Don't the Elven villages have the same sort of feeling? If I remember correctly, they can take as many fruits and berries from the forests that were blessed to them by God."

"Yup, yup, and the beds are the tree's branches. But, it isn't for "anyone", you know? Those who have been determined to not have enough ability can't live in the villages. They need to work away from home."

"Ability?" is what Rem asked.

"Since the Elven country would need to fight if enemies were to come, the young people would have to either be strong as soldiers, or work away from home outside of the villages."

".....I see. Does this town, also have requirements necessary in order to live in it?"

Rem asked that, and Lumachina answered.

"Many of them are below 30 years old, and are students that will eventually become priests. Rather, since they do not possess the qualifications as priest, it could be said that they are spending time here."

".....Now that you mention it."

Rem surveyed the area around them.

Diablo similarly turned his attention to the surroundings.

The people that were going through the streets, a majority of them were young—it was hard to tell due to their races, but it seemed that it was a town filled with nothing but those under 30 years old.

Lumachina talked about it.

"There are many places to learn in the royal capital. With places like the Magician's Guild and the smithing neighborhood, the martial arts training spots,

and the compounding classrooms, people that possess ambitions gather from all over the country."

"Ah.....Is it also possible to study magic -ssu ka?"

"Of course. The royal capital's Magician's Guild is oriented towards advanced practitioners, but there definitely are schools oriented towards beginners, you know?"

"Is that so.....I see."

Horun seemed to be thinking about something. She peeked over at Diablo.
—I wonder what's up with her?

Rem observed the people that were passing by.

".....It would seem that there are some in their later years though?"

"It's because no matter what, with things like technical work and teachers, society cannot come into existence with only young people. Although they possess the qualifications as priests, they stay in the town as mentors."

".....So the Grand Chapel's town, is like a gigantic school."

"Yes."

"That's unexpected....."

Rose responded to Diablo's muttering.

"Is something the matter, Master?"

"I thought that this place would be, a more inhuman place with no lived-in feeling to it. Kind of like they would always be doing nothing but praying."

At the very least, the Grand Chapel in the MMORPG Cross Reverie was that sort of place.

When a Priest-type Class was chosen, it seemed that they would have to visit frequently.

Lumachina made a wry smile.

"You aren't all that off. This is a story supported by the people of this town but.....The Inner Court has that sort of feeling. They are always doing nothing but praying."

"I see."

It seemed that Cross Reverie simplified the city life and then implemented it. After all, if it were to perfectly recreate a town of this scale, it would become a different type of game from an MMORPG.

However, even if this world was used as inspiration, would the game have

thorough knowledge of even the Church's innermost areas?

For example, if Diablo were to return to the real world right now, just how much of this other world would be able to be reproduced in the game.

Putting aside talent as a game designer, even if it took them their whole lifetime, to be able to get a complete understanding of this other world, there's no doubt that it would be impossible.

If that were the case, the one who created Cross Reverie.....just what kind of guy were they?

His eyes stopped on one of the holy symbols that were everywhere in the Grand Chapel town.

—No, it couldn't be.

Diablo stopped his speculations. Right now, Lumachina's complete protection took maximum priority. He needed to make sure that he didn't lose focus. On the opposite side of having high firepower, Magicians were weak against surprise attacks. A moment's delay in reacting was fatal.

"There is no reason to make any detours. Let's head to the Inner Court."

Lumachina nodded, and the others didn't have any objections.

They walked through the town.

A young Pantherian man came approaching.

"Excuse me. Please let me make a prayer for you."

"Sorry, but we're in a rush."

"Ehh!?"

After making a cold response, the other party made an extremely surprised face.

—Crap! I ended up responding in the same way I would when dealing with those kinds of approaches in front of the station.

This place was a town of believers.

Even the people that were around them made faces that said "Eh!?"

Shera and Horun's faces went pale.

"What do we do? What do we do?"

"Is this b-b-bad -ssu ka!?"

Rem controlled Lumachina who tried to step forward.

".....Stop right there. If your identity is exposed, it would turn into an uproar."

"S, sorry."

Concealing her face, Lumachina withdrew.

Rem confronted the Pantherian youth.

".....That was rude of us."

"No, um, just what did that person mean.....?"

".....We have come from the former Demon King territory, with a request for the priests of the Inner Court, and have just finished our long journey. Since we are feeling a bit impatient, please excuse our impoliteness."

"Ahh, so that's how it was! From the former Demon King territory!? That must have been a real ordeal."

".....Not really."

If they were to believe the Demonic Beings' words, since it seemed that the Demon King has already revived, it is not the former Demon King, but the Demon King territory—That's how it would be, but there was no need to expressly tell him that.

People started to shuffle in and gather around them.

".....Wh, what is it?"

"You have done well to come from such a distant place. This is a small show of hospitality."

Bread wrapped in leaves were handed over to them from an unfamiliar male Dwarf.

From another person, they were asked if they needed any water.

Before they realized it, they even started a prayer for them.

At this rate, it seemed like they would be rooted to the spot until night.

Rem planned on forcing their way through.

"Th, thank you all very much! But we are in a hurry! Now then, I have gratitude to God and to all of you!"

Cutting through the crowd of people, they ran so as to run away.

"Please wait! We are still in the middle of our prayer....."

The Pantherian youth chased after them.

Saying *Annoying!*, Rem's eyes changed into that of a carnivore. Quietly muttering, she dropped a crystal in her robe.

".....《Shadow Snake》"

Oi oi, doing that to an ordinary person—is what Diablo retorted in his mind while he carried Lumachina in his arms as they ran.

Receiving the status effect 《Bind》 with the Summoned Beast's effect, the prayer youth became unable to chase after them.

Part 4

They arrived at the plaza that was at the center.
There was a small isolated chapel, and people were standing scattered and were praying.
—As expected, I'm a bit tired.
Ever since they entered the Grand Chapel's district, they had mostly been running.
Since he had been holding Lumachina in his arms the whole time, even Diablo with his stamina was slightly out of breath.
Rem was bewildered.
".....What is up, with this town!? They're lining up with some high-pressure good will."
"That's a good thing."
Shera smiled looking delighted.
"It's good -ssu ne—"
Horun was the same. In their hands, they held the bread, manjuus, and grilled skewers that they had received.
In the end, the carriage was entrusted to Rose.
"I did not feel any hostility towards Master. However, it is unsettling that there are so many people idly approaching ."
"Those people are loving their neighbors."
Lumachina spoke for them to explain their feelings.
Rem tilted her head.
".....Rather than loving.....It felt as if it were out of some sort of sense of duty or obsession."
Shera asked a question.
"Haa—, I'm worn out. Where is the Inner Court?"
"Then entrance is over there."

What Lumachina had pointed out was a church that was at the center of the plaza.

Putting it bluntly, it was small. Most likely, not even one hundred people could fit inside of it.

Some magnificent stained glass was fitted into it, and the red door had an elegant sense to it, but that was all it had.

However, since there were believers and people carrying luggage going in and out of it at times, it didn't have a feeling of being on the decline.

Shera knit her eyebrows.

"Isn't it small?"

"It's more shabby than I thought -ssu."

Even Horun went as far as to say that.

Certainly, if one thought about how this chapel was the most important building of the Church in the Lifelia Kingdom, it was quite unsatisfactory.

Rem also tilted her head.

".....That shouldn't be the case, right? That's the entrance? Ah, could it be, does it extend out underground?"

"It's up."

Diablo turned his gaze.

Going *Eh?*, Rem and the others looked up at the sky as well.

A white sphere was floating in the sky.

"EHHH!?"

Rem was astonished.

From there, a platform descended, and vanished into an area that seemed to be the small church's courtyard.

After a short while, with people and luggage onboard, the platform ascended. It entered inside from a hole at the bottom of the sphere.

"The Inner Court that is up above and the church that acts as the entrance are connected with that floating corridor."

Lumachina gave an explanation.

Rem's eyes went round.

".....Wha.....Did you say.....a floating corridor!?"

"It's floating -ssu! That's totally awesome -ssu! Won't it come falling down -ssu ka!?"

"It is because it is a miracle of Kami-sama."

"Wah—, amazing! It really is amazing—."

Shera seemed to be surprised, but her response was light. She's a girl that isn't all that concerned about things.

Rose looked up seeming bored.

Diablo was curious about that.

"Did you know about it?"

"No. However, this Rose does not have any strong impressions about things that do not have anything to do with you, Master."

"Is, is that so."

Diablo faltered at the response that he had not expected.

It was a height of about 100 meters to the sphere.

Its surroundings were covered in a mist.

It was white and hazy.

".....Because of that, it doesn't enter people's field of vision from afar."

"The people who know about it will notice it if they look closely though."

As Rem and Lumachina were talking, there was someone that came running up to them.

Shera turned her gaze towards them, and Rose showed a sense of caution.

It was the Pantherian youth from earlier.

"Ze—, ze—, I finally.....caught up!"

He was gasping from total exhaustion.

Rem was dumbfounded.

".....No way!? Even though he was definitely stuck with 《Bind》."

"Eh? What is it? Although I became unable to run on the way.....Since you said that you had business in the Inner Court, I thought you'd come here....."

"You, just what are you!?"

"Fuu—.....Haa—.....Erm.....I'm, a sixth year theological student....."

".....A student?"

As he was catching his breath, he said that.

"I was still in the middle of the prayer! Please let me pray right to the very end!"

He was desperate.

Rem shrank away.

".....What in the world are you saying? I don't understand the meaning of it."

"I decided myself that I would “hold prayers for ten people every day”. That is a discipline I imposed upon myself. I announce just how much of it I was able to achieve in the classroom, and it affects whether I will obtain the qualifications of being a priest or not."

".....Something like that, it would be fine if you just pray for people other than us."

"But “not abandoning it in the middle” is what I decided upon myself as well."

".....You don’t even know about what kind of circumstances the other party has, you know?"

"I, I know that. And about that, I really am sorry about that.....I did not know that you were in that much of a hurry. However, just give me five more minutes."

".....It would be fine, if you just reported that you prayed for us."

"That is no good!"

"And why is that?"

He talked with a serious face.

"It is because, Kami-sama is watching my actions. The things I decide myself are promises with Kami-sama. And those are things I must not break."

".....You sure do live a life that is hard to live by."

Rem pressed down on the middle of her forehead.

Lumachina stood in front of him.

"It is just as you say. Even if no one else sees it, Kami-sama is watching. By all means, please make your prayer."

"Th, thank you very much!"

"I shall also pray together with you. May your deeds reach Kami-sama."

"Yes!"

They restarted the prayer.

—Good grief, she really is soft hearted, isn’t she.

Even the rest of their companions lost to the youth’s tenacity, and decided to wait for a short while.

At that time, the people in the surroundings started to make a racket.

It seemed that something happened.

Rose, who had absolutely no interest in going along with the prayer, gave a warning to Diablo.

"Master.....A high-threat level target has been confirmed!"

"So they've come!"

People wearing blue armor came down from the above Inner Court.

Before long, they came out from the small church.

—They're Holy Knights!

There were three of them.

Diablo's tension rose.

The believers hurriedly knelt down on the floor.

Surrounded by the Holy Knights, a man wearing silver clothes glared at the surrounding area. With a single glance, it was known that he was a person with a high position.

Lumachina's expression became stiff, and she muttered.

"Bishos-san....."

The silver-clothed man stopped his gaze facing this way. His mouth was concealed by his abundant black beard, but it could be understood that he was sneering.

"Welcome back, Lumachina-sama.....I have been waiting for you."

He slowly approached them.

The believers went into a clamour.

It was because the High Chief Priest, Lumachina, and the Head Cardinal Professor, Bishos, were right before their own eyes.

Holding respect for them, they did not approach within ten steps distance from them, but several hundred believers had gathered in the plaza.

Lumachina took off her robe.

The student that had been praying together with her just before this raised a scream, and sank down to the floor.

"H.....Hi.....High.....!?"

So that he wouldn't get dragged in just in case the time ever came, Rem dragged him away. It was something simple, but it really helped.

There was about five steps distance between Lumachina and Bishos.

It was a distance normal for talking.

It was a short interval where even a sword could reach.

Diablo stood at Lumachina's side, and the Holy Knights prepared themselves around Bishos.

At the back, Horun raised a timid voice.

"Wh-wh-what do we do -ssu ka, Danna!? Do we run!? Do we leap away and run!?"

"You fool, making this situation happen, was our objective."

"Ah.....It was -ssu."

By thrusting the evidence before them, she would excommunicate the people of the Cardinal Institute by the authority of the High Chief Priest.

If they were to fly into a rage and send out a Holy Knight, then protecting Lumachina from the enemy was his duty.

What will they talk about—is what the surrounding believers thought as they gulped down their saliva and watched attentively.

The voices of prayers vanished.

First, Lumachina asked a question.

"You remember my face and my title, correct?"

"Of course I do, High Chief Priest.....I have been awaiting your return all this time."

"As I was headed to Faltra City, my life was targeted in the middle of my journey."

"Goodness....."

"The assassin was, the assassin that you had sent—the Holy Knight Geibalt."

Zawa! The believers in the surroundings made a stir.

Like a ripple, the agitation spread.

Bishos did not refute it. He kept silent and listened.

Lumachina continued her words.

"And then, I have records of the giving and receiving of money over these past few years. There are several questions, I would like to ask you."

She thrust a single page of evidence out at him.

"In regards to this sort of bribery, are you able to prove your own innocence and that you were being lawful!?"

Bishos still kept silent.

So this had become a one-sided game.

He had no room to refute, is this what that meant.

It was eerie, but Lumachina threw out the words that she had thought of beforehand.

"If you are to admit to your crimes, I will announce it. Head Cardinal Professor Bishos.....As well as the other members of the Cardinal Institute that supported this corruption—I excommunicate you all!"

A shock larger than before spread out among the believers.

It was something outrageous.

It was only natural for the believers to be astonished.

Someone who had advocated the words of God up until now and was regarded as both a father and teacher, had schemed an assassination and enriched his own pockets after all.

And then, right now, that person had been exiled from the Church.

Finally, the Head Cardinal Professor Bishos opened his mouth.

"How sad."

".....What do you mean by that?"

"Abandoning your own duty, and selfishly devoting yourself to the limits of prodigality.....And right when I thought that you had returned, to think you had gone as far as to create this sort of forged contract, and try to exile us, the ones who had exerted ourselves for the sake of the Church....."

"Wha!? Are you saying that my words are all a fabrication!?"

"There is no way that is genuine. The members of the Cardinal Institute offer their all for the sake of the Church. Everything. There is no way they would accept something such as bribery. Did you think that you would deceive the believers with such words?"

"Evidence is right here!"

"It is a forgery! How lowly!"

"No way....."

"As I thought, it would seem that the heavy responsibility of being the High Chief Priest was not fit for a young girl who is at the height of wanting to play around."

"This evidence is real! Please check it properly!"

With a voice loud enough to drown out Lumachina's words, Bishos shouted.

"Rather than that scrap of paper! The believers are seeing the truth! There is no way we would break the rules! There is no way that sort of thing would be allowed to happen! If that sort of thing were to occur—That would mean that all of the faith that the believers had built up until now would lose its meaning!"

"Wha.....!?"

This time, the believers quietly reacted.

However, it was much heavier.

Rem whispered.

".....It's flowed in an unpleasant way, Diablo."

"It's kinda, scary."

Shera sent her gaze around at the surroundings.

Certainly, the believers' eyes carried a touch of a beast-like bloodlust.

If the members of the Cardinal Institute were big enough criminals to be excommunicated, what of themselves who had approved of them? What of the value of the faith that they had built up?

The fear of loss changed into hostility towards the destroyer of it all.

Lumachina's knees trembled.

"Even if.....all of it is lost, the committed crimes must be atoned for!"

"It is just as you say, High Chief Priest.....No, former High Chief Priest!"

"Wha!?"

"You had abandoned your duties, and concealed your whereabouts. There is no way the voice of God could be heard by someone who would run away from their duties!"

"Like I said, that is because an assassin was——"

"The Holy Knights have the role of protecting the High Chief Priest! Who in the world would believe a lie such as that!? Do you intend on destroying the Church itself for the sake of glossing over your laziness and prodigality!"

"How could you say such....."

Lumachina's eyes went red.

—You can't, don't cry.

At times of dispute, one would lose if they cry.

Even if their opinion was correct, if they were thought to be emotional, their words would lose their meaning.

However, with momentum as if to say that something like that didn't matter, Bishos pressed forward.

"Do you understand what your duty is!? Even though Faltra City, which had disturbances come one after another, had long awaited the visit of the High Chief Priest! Rather than placing foolish suspicions upon us, how about first

properly performing your own duties!?"

"Ah.....Guh....."

Now that he mentioned it, Lumachina was in the middle of going to give her condolences to Faltra City. So that was where she slipped out.

If she hadn't run away, she probably would have been killed by the Holy Knight but.....

Even if she appealed that it was an urgent situation at the time, due to Bishos' words, everything was made to be an "excuse".

Bishos made a declaration.

"Lumachina Weselia.....I would like for you to resign from your position as High Chief Priest. On top of that, it would be good for you to atone for your crime of abandoning your heavy responsibilities."

"Something like that.....What authority do you have to do that!? The Cardinal Institute does not have the authority to dismiss the High Chief Priest, you know!?"

"How foolish! So you will do anything to protect your own position! Someone like that does not have the qualifications to speak of the words of God!! You would do well to reflect upon yourself in the confession room!"

"That must not happen, the Church's rules were made by Kami-sama's great words....."

"Everyone, capture this destroyer! This is out of great faith!!"

Bishos shouted at the believers.

So the match was concluded.

The surrounding believers that heard him stood up, and, as if they were a group of zombies, headed towards her.

Diablo clicked his tongue.

—I'm reluctant to do this, but I guess I'll sweep them down.

Within his robe, he extended a hand into his pouch. He tried to pull out his magic staff, the 《Tonnerre Empereur》.

Rem and the others also got ready for battle.

Lumachina spread out both hands.

"Please wait!"

"You have lost this verbal dispute. We have no choice but to fight, you know, Lumachina!?"

"I am sorry, Diablo-sama.....But even so, spilling blood at the Grand Chapel, is something I cannot do!"

".....That really is like you."

A moment's hesitation, determines victory or defeat.

The believers rushed at Lumachina.

Taking her along with brute strength like this, did not match his preferences at all.

To satisfy Lumachina's will, he wouldn't make an attack but—

Diablo put his hand up to the sky.

"Come.....《Lightning Strike》!!"

The flash of light that appeared ran through the empty sky. A thunderous roar reverberated, and the air vibrated to the point of being able to feel it on one's skin.

The lightning struck the entrance that was on the ground—the small church.

The decorative holy symbol scattered away.

The believers froze up from the explosive sound and the impact.

They had all stopped moving.

At this moment, it might have been possible for all of their companions to escape in the carriage with the built up wandering magic.

However, Lumachina did not desire that.

She addressed the believers.

".....If everyone will, be saved with that.....Then I shall obey. I will head towards the confession room. Could you open up a path?"

It was a calm, but well-projected voice.

The believers naturally separated, and just now, made a path to the church that had been struck by lightning.

She slowly started walking towards it.

Diablo also went down the path.

Bishos called out to him with a condescending attitude.

"This is as far as the ones accompanying her go....."

He glared at him.

Diablo did not let out any words.

Unable to skillfully control his emotions, he tightly clenched his fists. His head became hot with rage.

However, even if he were to turn this man into charcoal right here and now, there was no mistake that it would be no good for anyone.

As if to speak for him, Rem started talking.

".....The one who told Lumachina to enter the confession room, was you. In that case, the protection of her safety, is your responsibility. If any injuries are given to her, it was to seal her mouth for knowing the inconvenient truth—that is how it will be seen."

"Fufun.....You say some unpleasant things, don't you? The confession room is a place to reexamine one's own sins.....No one would injure her."

".....If something happens to her, it won't be tolerated."

Following after Rem, Shera and Rose also came along.

Diablo noticed something.

"What happened, to Horun?"

"She ran away."

Rose responded with a flat voice.

That was a wise choice—is what Diablo thought as he made a wry smile.

Within the small church, several pieces of luggage were piled up. At the center, there was no roof, and the floating corridor from the Inner Court in the sky came down.

Diablo and the others became captives.

Chapter 3: Horun's Fight

Part 1

Horun ran away.

Frightened by the believers that drew near, she had started running before she knew it.

"Impossible -ssu! That sort of thing is impossible -ssu!"

Running through the town while shouting that, she couldn't remember where or how she came back but.....

Horun returned to the inn.

It was already dusk.

Since she usually did nothing but follow along after Diablo and the others, she became extremely worried wondering if they would kick her out for coming into his high class inn on her own.

Nevertheless, when she got as far as the 《Phoenix House》's lobby, a Dwarf woman politely greeted her.

"Welcome back, dear guest."

"Ah, yes.....I totally came back."

"Here is the key to your room. A cancellation for your evening meal had come in, but shall we prepare it now?"

"No, it's fine -ssu."

She didn't have an appetite.

The plan was to march into the Grand Chapel and, no matter the outcome, they wouldn't return for awhile. In a certain way, she alone deviated from the plan.

Horun held the key in her hand, and ascended the stairway.

Returning to her own room, she fell onto the bed.

Staying there for awhile, as if it were it her own house.....it didn't go that far, but it was a room that she had grown quite accustomed to.

She thought that what happened during the day could have been a dream.

She closed her eyes.....

When she opened her eyes once again, the door was knocked upon.

She was called for by Rem, everyone was gathered in the common room, and they were talking about the Grand Chapel—she had that sort of reverie. She was optimistic that no matter what happened, it would surely be alright. As for why, it was because Diablo was with them. No matter what kind of formidable enemy awaited them, he would definitely defeat them—That is what she believed.

The result was—a crushing defeat.

Horun muttered on top of her bed.

".....Deceived by such a.....villain, something like believers that would try to capture Lumachina-san, he should have just knocked them down."

She said that out loud, but there was no way the situation would be settled with just that.

That would be nothing but the “purification by the Demon King” that Alicia had mentioned.

To be unable to get anyone to agree with words, and make everyone be silent through violence.....

Something like that would never bring about the “ideal situation for the Church” that Lumachina wanted to regain.

Diablo and the others being caught was probably the decision of saying that not fighting was for the best.

Horun couldn’t come up with any other means.

".....Surely, if it’s Diablo-san, then he’ll be able to do something about it. If I just wait, surely, he’ll come back with a face as if it was nothing at all."

She closed her eyes.

The sound of a knock was made, and she thought that it was a dream again.
—It’s not.

Hurriedly jumping up to her feet, she unlocked the door.

"Yes!"

Outside the door, it was a female Dwarf. She was an employee of the inn. However, the usual smile wasn’t there.

"Dear guest.....A person of the Church is....."

"Ueh!?"

"Some gentlemen who are believers have come, and they say that they are here to take the luggage of you dear guests. What shall we....."

"Th-th-th-that's no good!"

So their inn was exposed. Or could it be that someone told them.

The female Dwarf nodded.

"Understood. The 《Phoenix House》 will protect its dear guests as well as their luggage with all of its might."

"That's really appreciated -ssu!"

"However, in order to seek perfection, I would suggest going out from the back."

"D, do you mean that it would be better to run away?"

"It would be fine if it were just gentlemen that are believers but.....The opponent is the Church after all. In the even that even Holy Knights come around.....With the security of this inn, it is unfortunate to say that we might be inadequate....."

"Hii!?"

She felt like she was going to cry.

Come to think of it, Holy Knights were said to be around level 100.

Incidentally, Horun was around level 20. Since she is a Seeker, she wasn't suited for battle.

The female Dwarf lowered her head.

"Please push the right side of the frame of the mirror that is at the end of the third floor hallway. It will turn into a hidden door."

"Ha, hahi....."

After telling her what was necessary, the employee excused herself from the room.

A heavy sound was made, and the door closed.

Horun jumped at her luggage.

"Gero escape -jya baba!"

While blurting out unexplainable words, she opened up her rucksack, and shoved in her valuables.

Before that, it would probably be good to reduce the excess stuff and make it lighter.

Various goods rolled about on the floor.

Her hands grabbed a silver cup.

"Ah....."

This was something that she borrowed at the 《Treasury》，but having dirtied it under certain circumstances, although she had thoroughly washed it, she still found it to be embarrassing and held onto it without returning it.

What passed through her mind, was their adventure at the dungeon, the 《Demon King's Underground Labyrinth》，that was in the desert.

It was a fun adventure like the ones depicted in her dreams.

It was the best!

She herself was weak.

She was weak to the point of trembling and wanting to run away just by hearing about the Holy Knights!

Tears came spilling out from her eyes.

A drop fell into the silver cup.

"B.....but.....everyone iz, a companion! We're companionsssss!!"

'And you want to save them?'

"Of course I do!"

After shouting that, she noticed.

"Wh, who's there!?"

'Ah—, over here -yon, here, here♪'

What was in front of her eyes was, the silver cup that Horun was holding with both hands.

A pretty woman was sitting on the rim. She only had the size of being able to ride on Horun's hand.

Her green hair was light and fluffy, and she wore clothes of a design that Horun had never seen before. As if she were a fairy, at any rate, she was small.



"Who, are you?"

'Ara, you sure are rude. I, who am awe-inspiring and reside in the Holy Grail, am a Goddess! You are facing this Babylon-sama!'

"What do you mean.....by Holy Grail?"

'It's what you're holding, this thing, you know?'

"Hie!?"

She couldn't even imagine that it was such an impressive thing.

'Fu fu fu.....Could it be that you didn't know about it? Well~, since it's a sacred treasure from another world, I guess it can't be helped.'

"From another world....."

It was something outrageous.

Before, being unable to hold it in any longer—She had used this as a toilet.

Horun's face turned pale.

'Has it been a hundred years since I last manifested? Since I'm in a good mood, I'll give you a special service♪ I'll give you a level up!'

"Heh? Seriously!?"

'Fu fu fu.....To begin with, I'm the Goddess of Level Ups, see? Since your level is low, you've got some surplus, ya know?'

"Could it be, will I be able to go to Diablo-san and the others' aid!?"

'I don't really know about that.'

"Ahhh.....Jeez, that's fine as well! Just do, as much as you can! Quickly!"

'.....Haa.....That might be downing my motivation~. Ya need to properly as me like you're asking a God. Although I'm from a different world, I'm a pretty awesome Goddess, ya know?'

Placing the Holy Grail on the floor, Horun prostrated herself and rubbed her forehead on the floor.

"If you would please do it -ssu!"

'Ah, a nail is chipped. That's a super downer -poyo~'

Babylon did nothing but look at her fingertip with a cold gaze.

Kon kon! Horun head-butted the floor.

"I beg of you -ssu!"

'Wawah!? You, blood is coming out, ya know? Doesn't that hurt?'

"It doesn't hurt -ssu. It's because, if I stay doing nothing like this, and only run away.....It'll hurt even more -ssu.....My heart will!"

'Well, I get it. I did say that I would raise your level, see? I received your

compensatory offering after all.'

".....Offering -ssu ka?"

'Yup— yup—. Fu fu fu.....In order to preserve this loveliness of mine, the lifeblood of a maiden is required～'

"Hiii!?"

'It had a bit of a strange taste, but it had a good flavor.'

"Wh, when was that!?"

'Erm.....It was about a month and a half ago, I think?'

".....What, was, that?"

Wasn't that about the time that Horun borrowed the Holy Grail?
Lifeblood?

What she poured into the Holy Grail, wasn't blood. It definitely wasn't.
Come to think of it, the liquid she poured into it vanished right before her eyes.
Was that because the Goddess that resided in the Holy Grail had drunk it!?
She started to gush out drops of sweat.

'Yu—p. Now then, from here on, I'll bring about a miracle, just •for• you♪'

It was a miracle that had a non-serious mood to it.

Babylon flutteringly waved her hands.

A small light flew towards Horun.

It hit her chest—and vanished.

Horun tried clutching her hands, and jumping in place.

"Th, the level up.....did it happen -ssu ka? I don't really get it but.....It kinda feels like my body's light? Could it be, can I move my hands much faster than usual!?"

Sha! Sha! She made sword swinging movements.

Babylon shrugged her shoulders.

'It failed -ppo～'

"Hogeh—!? What do you mean by that -ssu ka!? Is this a scam -ssu ka!? Getting my hopes up like that !?"

'I'm telling you it was a legit miracle! I totally don't know why that happened either, ya know～? Totally the worst.'

"Ahhhh....."

Horun held her head in her hands. Could it be that the fact that what she offered wasn't blood but urine that was the problem!?

Fortunately, Horun was a maiden. At the very least, within her memories, she had no experience.

".....Um.....The blood, about how much do you need -su ka?"

'About two liters?'

"If, if it's that much.....would it work!?"

'Ah—, since you would die if you did it, I feel like I wouldn't really recommend it.'

"I would die -ssu ka!? That would be totally meaningless -ssu!"

'Normally, ya might make a living sacrifice?'

"That's absolutely no good -ssu! That sort of thing wouldn't be for a Goddess -ssu! That's a devil -ssu! That's unforgivable -ssu!"

'Kyahahahaha! So serious. That's totally hilarious.'

"Kuh.....It was a mistake to rely on such a no-good Goddess -ssu.....As I thought, I have no choice but to do my best with my own strength!"

'Hold on!? What's with that, I'm totally not no good, ya know!?'

"The level up, did fail after all."

After being glared at with reproachful eyes, Babylon averted her gaze.

The cause of the failure might have been due to the offering not being blood but a different liquid, but to begin with, with the requirement being a lethal amount of a maiden's blood, she couldn't use it.

Pan! Babylon clapped her hands.

'Well then, I'll tell you about the other method! Kyaha!'

"What is it -su ka?"

'You know, since I'm an excellent Level Up Goddess, it means I can sniff out the potential for it～. It smells -wa—. It totally smells -wa—.'

"I'd really like it if a girl didn't say that it smells -ssu....."

'A super level up smell is coming from the room next door!'

"Haa.....What are you saying....."

After grumbling, *Ha!*, she realized it.

Next door was Rose's room.

And then, unlike Diablo who possessed that miraculous pouch, everyone else left their personal belongings in their rooms.

Even Rose's belongings, they should be in her room.

—The 《Master and Servant Contract》!?

Horun grabbed the Holy Grail and rushed out into the hallway.

Part 2

She grabbed the doorknob of the room next door.

"It won't open—!? Of course it wouldn't!"

Although her speech and conduct as well as her appearance were eccentric, Rose was a maid. There was no way she would be coarse enough to go out with her room unlocked.

'Why don't you just open the lock?'

".....True -ssu ne."

Horun stuck her fingers into the inner part of her belt. She then put the wire that she took out into the keyhole.

As if she had used the key, a *gachin* sound was made.

Babylon's eyes went round.

'Fast!? You, despite your level, isn't your 《Unlock》 totally badass?'

"It's normal -ssu. My Shishou was even faster after all."

She entered the room.

'Fu fu fu.....I might be looking forward to this, ya know? A child with high ability despite their level value—it means you have talent, ya know? Get it?'

"Her luggage, where is it -ssu ka!?"

'Listen to me for a bit—. I said some pretty important stuff just now.'

"It's here!"

She dragged out a rucksack that had been hidden underneath the bed.

If she finds out about this, I might be killed—That sort of thought crossed her mind, but it's for the sake of saving her companions, is the excuse she decided to make.

There was a lock on the rucksack as well, but this was also undone in an instant. Before long, the black-dyed leather choker was found.

If she used this, she would be able to easily level up.

However, when the master (Diablo) dies, the servant (herself) would also die.
—Compensation.

Horun made an empty gulp.

Babylon spoke.

'That's a totally serious one, ya know? Without mistake, you'll get a super level up but.....A Goddess is predicting it. Your lifespan will shrink.'

".....Is that.....true -ssu ka?"

'Ya shook?'

"That's not it, will I really get a super level up -ssu ka!?"

'Since I'm that type of Goddess, I won't make any mistakes when it comes to level ups, ya know?'

"You failed earlier though....."

'Ah, a split end～. I'm totally dejected～'

—This girl is no good. I need to do something quickly.

Fuuuuu..... Horun took a deep breath.

Dokun, dokun Her heartbeat became fast.

Her breathing became rough.

Giriri She put strength in the hand that grabbed the choker.

"Ahhhhh!"

—Who cares about life span!

"I'll do ittttt!!"

Horun put on the black-dyed leather choker.

The world blacked out.

Blown by the wind, she was standing on top of a grey tower.

What was overhead was a dark brown night sky. Even though there weren't any clouds, there weren't any stars.

Below her feet, it was a sparkling, marvelous sight. Countless buildings stretched out, and it was a town that she had never seen before.

On the ground, there were a lot more people than ants, a series of box-shaped carriages without horses, and the light shined stronger than any torch.

She was engulfed in a floating feeling.

The ground was drawing near.

—I'm falling!?

"Buuwah!"

When she realized it, she had collapsed to the floor.

The Holy Grail was rolling about in front of her eyes. The Goddess Babylon was

touching her nose.

'Hey, hold on there, are you alive~? I did say that your lifespan would shorten, but isn't that too fast?'

"Ah.....Uu.....I'm alive."

'That's good.'

"I'm going -ssu."

Horun stood up.

'Ah, take me along with you. I'm totally bored.....That's not it, I'll totally be useful! Or something.'

"Eh.....But, since I'm sneaking into the Church, being loud is....."

'What a rude child!? I'll be quiet! Or rather, you're the only one that can hear my voice, ya know?'

"Ahh, is that so -su ka.....But, it would be bad if I respond to you -ssu."

'If you leave me behind, I'll curse you, ya know?'

"Just what in the world is a Goddess doing.....It can't be helped -ssu ne."

'You know, when it comes to the Goddess of the Holy Grail, the hunks would seriously scramble for me, so you're pretty strange, ya know?'

Horun scooped up the Holy Grail that was rolling about on the floor.

She left Rose's room.

She could hear footsteps.

—For some reason, I can tell -ssu.

They weren't the footsteps of employees or guests. They were men holding weapons. Their number was three.

However, she couldn't just run away.

She decided to confront them in the hallway.

Part 3

The men had bloodshot eyes.

Their appearance was that of having normal shirts and pants, but large holy symbols dangled around their necks. And then, they held maces in their hands.

One among them had pointed Horun out.

"This girl, is she one of Lumachina's companions!?"

To think that a believer would address the High Chief Priest without using any honorifics.

It was clear that those men were after their luggage.

A different one spoke.

"There should still be more fabricated documents.....We'll have you obediently hand them over."

Horun wrinkled her eyebrows.

They should have brought all of the evidence.

The only one she could think of, was Alicia. She didn't hand over all of the evidence that she acquired.

So she had thought of the possibility that Lumachina would fail in the negotiations, and that they would get back the evidence.

"Although I was spot on, I'm in a pinch -ssu."

Babylon swung a fist.

'What are you saying? Those guys' levels are around ten, ya know? Just go at them with a snap, a snap!'

"N, no.....Even if you say that all of a sudden....."

A man drew near her.

"What the heck are you mumbling? Hand over the documents!"

—I wanted to ask about the basis for why they thought that the fabricated stuff was "insufficient".

However, they probably didn't possess a normal way of thinking anyway.

They were doing what the Head Cardinal Professor Bishos told them to do.

They were puppets.

Even though the true righteous one should be Lumachina, Bishos manipulated the believers with deceitful words. If she were able to do something like that as well, then even she would be able to cut through this situation!

—If I could manipulate them.

'The level up bonus skill has been selected.'

"Ha?"

When she turned her gaze towards her, Babylon was shaking her head left and right.

'That just now wasn't me, ya know?'

The mysterious voice resounded once again in her head.

'Skill 《Charm》 has become level 8.'

"What is it -su ka!?"

'Like I said, that wasn't me. Isn't it a bit confusing?'

"What is 《Charm》 -su ka!?"

The instant she shouted, pink hearts flew to the three men that she was confronting.

Hyo hyo hyo hyo, pashun! A relaxed sound was made.

"Nhii!?"

The men raised strange voices.

Howa～n Their cheeks turned red.

Putting it bluntly, it felt creepy.

They started saying strange things.

"He, hehe.....Ojou-chan, we're sorry for that somewhat harsh way of speaking, okay? It's not like we want to be hated by you, see?"

"That's right."

"If we were to be hated by you, ojou-chan, we wouldn't be able to keep on living."

Zowah A chill ran down Horun's spine.

—What in the world are these people saying!?

Ketaketaketa The Goddess was laughing.

'The Skill 《Charm》! Kyahahahahaha! You, did you want to become popular that badly!? That's totally hilarious.'

"Fuah—!?"

'Anyhoo, since ya went and chose it, how about using these guys?'

"Uuu.....I wanted to use attack magic just like Diablo-san -ssu....."

'Fu fu～n? I think that you have talent for that as well though.'

Horun spoke to the men.

"Um.....If possible, I would like it if you didn't take away our luggage though.

There isn't anything like evidence here anymore anyway."

Would she be able to do something about these men with bloodshot eyes with words like this?

She was half in doubt about it, but they nodded looking delighted.

"I see, if it's you that says it, ojou-chan, then we won't take them away."

"It can't be helped if there wasn't any evidence, can it? It's not like we're disobeying Bishos-sama's orders."

"Yeah, it's not like we disobeyed him."

It would seem that their loyalty towards the Cardinal Institution hasn't changed. However, being charmed by Horun, it was at the level of "obeying if an excuse worked".

Babylon stirred her up.

'What're you doing, say it in a bit more cuter way. There is a "way of hitting" in both the sword and magic, right? Even for Skills, it's not fine if you just say the name. When the effectiveness is mild, the effect will vanish the moment you're gone, ya know?"

It was disgusting.

However, she had to endure.

Horun put both hands together, and tilted her head just a bit. She showed a smiling face with all of her heart.

"Kyan, Oji-sans, thank you! Horun, is so happy!"

—I wanna die.

The men's faces turned bright red.

"Buffoh! L-l-leave it to us, Horun-chan!"

"We'll protect the luggage of this place!"

"Nosebleed, nosebleed....."

"P, please do that! Thank youuu~~~~~ -ssu."

While saying that, Horun left from being in front of them.

She ran headed for the hidden door that seemed to be at the end of the third floor hallway.

She held down her mouth with her hand.

"I feel like I'm going to throw up -ssu."

'Gro—ss. I'll curse you if you throw up in the Holy Grail, ya know?'

I absolutely won't say that I used it as a toilet—is what Horun thought.

Part 4

"I want you to take me up -ssu. P, please!"

The surroundings had already become dark.

It seemed that the coming and going of the Inner Court was active even at night.

Horun tried using 《Charm》 on a man who was driving a wagon and headed to the entrance church.

Calling out to him in the shadow of a building, she asked that favor to him. The man's cheeks turned red.

"Eh, no.....even if you say that.....Even I, just want to hand over vegetables to the White Masks."

Was it too difficult?

Babylon stirred her up.

'Hey? Horun-chan, are you the serious type? Your exposure, it's lacking, you know~? Even if you are just twelve years old, aren't you underestimating the world?'

The Goddess said something like a vulgar cameraman.

It seemed that her figure couldn't be seen by anyone other than Horun, nor could her voice be heard by anyone else.

Guh..... Horun gritted her teeth.

She pinched the hem of her miniskirt.

A small amount of her thighs became exposed. Even though it was embarrassing enough for her to be wearing such a short skirt, to do something like this—It was embarrassing enough for her to die!

"P, p, ple, ase."

"Guhoh!? It c-c-can't be helped.....Since they only check the top box, get into the cabbage box below. It can get you as far as the Inner Court."

"Oji-san, thank you -ssu!"

Fufu..... Babylon smiled.

'This Level Up Goddess will acknowledge it, and shall grant you the title of 《Ossan Killer》.'

"I don't need that shit -ssu."

The man who was doing the work of emptying the cabbage box turned around.

"Eh, what?"

"Awawa.....It's nothing -non! Teheh!"

The self-hating Horun pulled off a cute pose in an instant.



One hour later—

After having Babylon check to see if there was anyone around, Horun came out of the cabbage box.

"Uwah—.....The smell of cabbage is....."

'You better not infect the Holy Grail with the smell, got it? Something like a cabbage-smelling Holy Grail, it'll make me unpopular with the hunks.'

Ignoring Babylon's words, Horun examined the surroundings.

It seemed to be a storehouse.

Since there was almost no light, it was pitch dark.

However, that was no problem. Even with just the starlight of a small window, Horun was able to get a grasp of the surroundings.

She was able to see in the dark so well that it surprised even her.

Since she experienced the sensation of going up while inside the box, this place should be a storehouse in the Inner Court.

When she tried to remember.....

"Eh? I, remember."

How far she was carried through the passages, how many times and which way turns were made, she remembered it all in detail. There is no way her perception and memory should have been so excellent up until now.

Horun was bewildered by her own changes.

Babylon used a small make-up kit that she had pulled out of nowhere, and talked while tending to her nails.

'Mapping is one of the basics for a Seeker, isn't it? When you're level 80, even if you fall into a pitfall, you wouldn't lose sight of your own location, normally.'

".....What do you mean by level 80?"

'It's yours.'

"My."

'Your current level.'

"Fuah!?"

'The 《Master and Servant Contract》 is an item that raises even the servant's level so that they can be useful to the master. It just means that the owner of that thing is at an amazing level～. The type whose level is about double 80?'

"Awawa.....80!?"

Horun stared at her own hands.

She recalled several things.

".....I, was in a town called Zircon Tower -ssu. It was a town in the former Demon King territory, where there were a lot of pretty strong people. At that place, the person who was said to be the strongest Warrior, was level 80."

'H—n? Great for you.'

"That's a light attitude -ssu ne."

'Well, seeing it from a Level Up Goddess' point of view, the true part of leveling up come after you've broken through the limit. It all starts from here, right from here.'

"Limit?"

'Fu fu—n♪ For normal people of the Races, level 99 is the limit. Although they can relatively get it up that far if they have the motivation, if they break through the limit, it becomes 100.'

"Ah.....You mean like the Holy Knights?"

'I don't know about that though. To go beyond 100, it gets around ten times harder than it took to get there -yo ne～'

"Ten times!?"

'Well, in exchange, if for example a level 100 and a level 110 went at it, there would be a seriously awesome difference between them.'

"Seriously -su ka....."

'Super seriously. Both the Martial Arts and Magic they learn, it would be, like, becoming able to fight against large crowds and against large type Demonic Beasts, or something?'

"Something....."

Even her own level right now, she was above the clouds compared to how she was during the day.

Something like breaking the limit and going above level 100 on top of that, it seemed like trying to reach the moon.

—Most likely, Diablo-san is probably at that point.

'Ah, like, someone's come～'

Horun concealed herself in a hiding spot.

With her current level, as long as she was in the pitch dark storehouse, she had no fear of being discovered.

However, she was unable to achieve her objective only by hiding.

There was only one person who entered the storehouse, and they were

wearing a white mask.

Judging from their figure, they were a male Dwarf.

"I'll go ask that person about Diablo-san and the others' location -ssu."

'Ahan, so you're going charm them again? Make sure to make them fall in love with you using your vivaciously young twelve year old skin and your level 80 techniques, 'kay~?'

"I'd really like it if you didn't say such weird things -ssu.....I'm only going to increase my allies with the Skill 《Charm》 -ssu."

The time of starting something, was when one would be the most nervous.

She went out in front of her opponent from her hiding place.

The White Mask noticed her and turned his gaze towards her.

"《Charm》—Ehe!"

Horun showed her best smiling face.

Part 5

She had learned various information from the Dwarf White Mask.

The Inner Court was separated into four large parts—it seemed.

The place where things like storehouses and kitchens which were needed for daily life was the lower floor section. It was where the White Masks feigned to do voluntary services and worked.

The center was a place of worship where large-scale ceremonies were held, and where they would pray several times a day.

The east side is where the bedrooms that acted as the residences for people with high positions were. The High Chief Priest's private room was also there, but that probably didn't matter right now.

In addition to those, the library and the reference room were also there. Most likely, the evidence of bribery that Alicia's cooperators gathered were from this reference room.

On the west side of the Inner Court, there were small lecture rooms and dining halls. The confession rooms were also on the west side.

It seemed that Lumachina and Diablo's group were locked up separately. The

confession rooms were only that in name only and were similar to a jail. She was able to get that much information out of him, but unfortunately, the Dwarf White Mask didn't know as far as their specific locations. Since it was a vast building, it seemed that the responsibilities were divided up. She decided to first go to the west side and then get information out from a different person.

Horun ran through the hallways.

White walls, and white floors.

Was it stone? Was it earth? She couldn't really tell. Since it was a miraculous building that could float with God's miracle, the walls and the floors might be special.

There were small windows on the walls, and starlight came in. That was all the light that was there. There was a sense of cleanliness, but there was also a sense of gloominess, making it eerie.

If it were her former self, she might have been paralyzed with fear—that is what Horun thought.

Passing through the lower strata, she entered the west side area.

Here, it had a modest interior design where the floors and walls were generally made of lined up wooden boards.

Although they were made so that they couldn't open, there were latticed windows, and it was somewhat brighter than the hallways of the lower floor section.

The Holy Grail Goddess grumbled.

'I'm so bored with you doing nothing but running -poyo～. I might be hungry. Could you offer up something like your lifeblood?'

"Haa.....haa.....We'll almost.....be at the floor where the confession rooms are -ssu."

'No way, you completely ignored a Goddess!?'

There was a figure of a person as she climbed up the stairs.

Horun pushed out her hands.

"《Charm》!!"

"Eh!?"

The slender White Mask was surprised and looked her way. Their orange hair was long, and their chest was big.

—A Pantherian.....woman!?

A pink heart flew out.

Hyo hyo hyo hyo..... That was all that happened, and no sort of effect was activated.

Horun timidly talked to her.

"U, um....."

However, the other party made a merciless response.

"Kyaaaaah~~~~~!!"

"Awawa.....It was a massive failure -ssu!"

'Nfufu, although it depends on the other party's tastes and preferences, it seems that it's hard for Horun-chan's 《Charm》 to work on women～. I'm OK either way though.'

She ran past the side of the Pantherian who raised a scream.

"If you knew that, I would have liked it if you said that to me earlier -ssu!"

'Normally, you'd notice that.'

"Th, that's true -ssu, but....."

'It's fine, isn't it. Since you obtained a large power, overestimating the ability and failing comes as part of the set -yon♪ Obita-kun was the same way, right?'[\[1\]](#)

"I have no idea what you're saying! It's because I'll die if I fail -ssu, okay!?"

Getting this far, she had pulled information from several White Masks, and a map of the premise had already entered her head.

She barged into the key room that controlled the confession room keys.

—May there no be any women! Also, may there not be too many people!

When there are a lot of opponents, the Skill 《Charm》 decentralizes.

The key room—

There were only two people inside.

A top half naked macho Pantherian man, and a book reading Grasswalker boy—No, he was probably an adult.

Grasswalkers were a race where their appearance would remain as that of a child even when they reached adulthood. His age was unknown even when seen by Horun who was of the same race, but since he was in a place like this, she should think of him as an adult.

They weren't wearing white masks.

Their clothes also weren't monk working clothes, as the Pantherian was in leather pants, and the Grasswalker was wearing a black top and bottom and had glasses.

Other than the White Masks in the Inner Court.....

Horun opened her eyes wide.

"Could it be....."

—Are they Holy Knights!?

The Pantherian raised up the ends of his mouth.

"Gufufu, they really came. It's just as Guryuun said."

".....Naturally."

The Grasswalker didn't raise his eyes from the book, and muttered that.

The Pantherian grabbed the nearby War Axe, and stood up.

He pointed at his own crotch.

"Gufufu.....So you've come to save your companions. The keys to the confession rooms are right here, little rabbit."

"Fuah—!? How could you put them in such a place -su ka!?"

Holy Knights, how dreadful!

While reading his book, the Grasswalker breathed a sigh.

"Gadolas, the place you're pointing to is wrong. It's the back side."

"Nn? Whoops! Thanks, Guryuun."

The Pantherian called Gadolas once again pointed out—a bunch of keys were hanging at the back of his waist.

It was this sort of situation, but Horun felt a bit relieved.

Numbers were on the keys.

"Gufufu.....Your companions are in the thirteenth confession room. If you wanna meet them, I can let ya meet with them right away, you know?"

"Eh, is it alright -su ka? With that face, could it be you're actually a nice person -ssu ka!?"

"My face has nothing to do with this! My face!"

"Awawa....."

"I'm sayin' that if you obediently get captured, then I'll put ya in the same confession room.....Gufufu. My great self is so generous, right?"

"So it was with that sort of meaning -ssu ka. That doesn't make me happy at all -ssu!"

The Holy Grail Goddess also raised a voice.

'What's with that? Calling himself "great" on his own, he seems super stupid～.

It's totally hilarious though.'^[2]

".....That's true -ssu ne."

She remembered the words when the Goddess had appeared.

—I, who am awe-inspiring and reside in the Holy Grail, am a Goddess! You are facing this Babylon-sama!

At any rate, it was certain that this was not an amicable opponent.

Horun pushed her hands out toward the opponent.

"《Charm》—Kira☆"

She activated the Skill.

Just like always, pink hearts flew towards the men that she was confronting.

Hyo hyo hyo hyo.....

"Funnurah!"

Gadolas stretched out his chest, and flexed his pectorals. Hitting those muscles, the heart popped like a soap bubble.

"EHH!?"

"Guhahahaha! Something like that won't work on my great self!"

"Are you a homo -ssu ka!?"

"You're wrongggg! My great self only has interest in bouncy curves, you damned childish flat little rabbit!"

Behind him, the Greenwalker muttered.

"It isn't due to gender designs. The Skill 《Charm》 does not work on opponents of higher rank."

"Seriously -ssu ka!?"

At this late point in time, Babylon started talking.

'Yup, yup, I was also thinking about telling you but.....《Charm》 won't work unless your opponents' total level is lower than your own level～. Of course, there are corrections made depending on Horun-chan's charm value and the opponent's resistance value though.'

"I would have liked it if you told me that sort of stuff earlier -ssu!"

In other words, 《Charm》 couldn't be used on the Holy Knights.

Horun stepped back.

She jumped out from the room.

—I can't fight in such a narrow place -ssu!

Right away, Gadolas came chasing after her.

"Hya—ha—!! Time for some rabbit huntingggg!!"

"....."

In the now silent room, Guryuun turned the page of his book.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Doraemon reference

[2] Gadolas uses “ore-sama” to refer to himself, and Babylon mentions how he adds “-sama” when referring to himself.

Part 6

Gadolas swung his War Axe.

Along with the wall's boards, he bisected the air.

"Doooooooooousei!"

"Uhii!?"

Having turned level 80, Horun's evasion rate had also considerably improved.

Although her opponent surpassed her in power and speed, Pantherians were known to have low dexterity, and she just barely evaded his attacks.

He had might that seemed like it would tear her to pieces if he simply touched her, as well as an appropriate speed, but thanks to him having large preparatory movements, she was able to predict his attacks.

However, even if she knew, it took all of her might to avoid them. Attacks like that had been sent at her many times over.

Babylon laughed.

'Ahahahahahahaha! This is bad, totally bad! You might die!? You might, you might!?'

"Why do you sound like you're having fun -su ka!?"

'Uhihi! I mean, a Level Up Goddess is a Goddess that governs over battles after all, see?'

"Although I can understand that, I'd like it if you quietly enjoyed it -ssu! You're distracting me -ssu!"

'What is this, a movie theater?'

Once again, the gigantic War Axe passed through the place where her head was once at.

If she were even a second slower in bending down, the area above her nose would have disappeared.

"Wawah!?"

Gadolas shouted.

"Ora ora ora oraa! What's wrong!? Didn't you come to save your companions!"

Once again, the wall's boards were broken, and wood chips came flying.

Hitting her forehead, blood came scattering down.

"Ouch!!"

Drops of blood fell into the Holy Grail that was tied down by the belt on her waist.

Zawa zawa Babylon showed an expression of ecstasy.

'Ahha~hn! That is the best!'

"It looks like I'm going to die, you know -ssu yo!?"

'Nn fu fu.....Although ugly machos aren't my preference, if he tears out a maiden's heart and pours that blood into the Holy Grail, I wouldn't mind manifesting~'

"To that Holy Knight!?"

'The Holy Grail has that sort of system, ya know?'

"So you're such a slut -ssu ka!"

'Ehe, ehehe.'

The Goddess was unreliable.

Horun thought about it.

Although it wasn't as overwhelming as before, it really did seem difficult to win against a Holy Knight.

A twenty level difference was large, and the 《Shadow Knife》 that Horun possessed was a weapon meant for beginners.

Gadolas didn't wear any armor, but she didn't think he was an opponent she could defeat with a single knife.

She formulated a plan from the premise map that had been driven into her

head.

Gadolas started to get irritated from how his attacks weren't really hitting.

"Scurrying about like that! But....."

There was a wall at the end of the hallway.

The place that Horun escaped to, was a dead end.

Horun ran to the window that was the furthest back. As expected, the window wouldn't open. The starry sky could be seen, and down below, the light of the town was there.

Gadolas stopped his feet.

The distance was about five steps away.

It wasn't far, but it wasn't a distance where the War Axe's attack could reach.

Gadolas supported the War Axe with both of his hands, and had it stand up straight in front of his face. The blade was pointed towards Horun.

It was a strange stance.

—Although I don't know what it is, a Martial Art is probably coming!

Looking from the opponent's point of view.....After having completely avoided his attacks, her figure was finally driven into a corner. He would absolutely kill her here, that is what he should be thinking. It would be the worst if he attacked normally but had that avoided and then had her slip through at his flank.

In order to not let that happen, he would use a wide, long range attack!

Gadolas stuck out his War Axe.

"Oraa, get crushed! 《Axe Impact》!!"

A shockwave spread out.

The walls, the floor, and the ceiling had pressure applied and were squashed.

Horun kicked the window frame that was behind her.

"Seiya!"

Together with the broken window frame, she rushed out to the outside of the building.

Horun shouted.

"Uryaaaahhhhh!!"

The starry sky.

The town lights on the ground.

The approaching—death.

And then, just now, the window she jumped out from, was blown away along with the wall. It was something due to Gadolas' Martial Art.

".....aAaAAAaAAAH!!"

Horun stretched out her hand with all her might.

She grabbed the window frame of a lower floor. The falling stopped!

Immediately after thinking that—the window frame distorted and made a *Bakin!* sound.

The broken window frame fell down into the distance.

It slowly fell down to the ground of the plaza that the entrance church was at.

The above floor's window and wall did so as well.

Since it was late at night, there probably weren't any people there. It would be nice if there weren't.....

Having re-grabbed a window frame different from the one that had fallen, Horun had escaped falling to her death.

"Fu~~~, that was close -ssu~"

'You're pretty good! Horun-chan, as expected of your agility!'

Babylon praised her.

Grasswalkers were a race that had outstanding AGI, and for Seekers, agility was important. It was acrobatics that were a bit absurd, but her level 80 physical abilities met the demands.

'Horun-chan, up! Up!'

"Eh!?"

Gadolas stuck his head out from the broken window of the floor above.

"You shitty rabbit! So you're still alive!"

He raised his War Axe overhead.

The blade shined.

—So it's another Martial Art!

If he had thrown his War Axe at her, it probably would have ended with that.

However, thanks to him choosing a Martial Art meant for that situation, Horun managed to narrowly escape from death.

Before the hurled slash reached her, she rolled into the hallway of the lower floor.

She couldn't take things slowly!

She immediately got up and ran.

Gadolas used the stairs and came chasing after her.

Part 7

The White Mask believers were moving about in confusion.

"Oo, Gadolas-sama, what in the world is this.....?"

With his breathing rough, Gadolas grabbed the neck of the one who was at the lead and raised him up.

"Where is the rabbit!?"

"Hii!?"

"Hurry up and answer me! Or else I'll smash your head, got it!?"

"An.....An intruder!? If it's a Grasswalker intruder, th, they went that way....."

The believer pointed the back of the hallway.

"Dammit!"

Gadolas threw the believer away.

"Uwah!?"

"Don't just stand there watching, at least slow her down!"

"I, I'm terribly sorry.....She entered the third room down!"

"Tell me that faster."

Dokah dokah Making those footsteps, he approached the room. He kicked the door.

The door that had its hinges broken flew inside the room.

Buwah! White smoke spread out.

"What the hell is this!?"

A Grasswalker who was wearing a white mask and was inside the room pointed to the back of the room.

"The intruder is running away!"

On the other side of the white smoke, the sound of a door opening was made. Someone with a small build ran out through it.

Gadolas howled.

"You damned, shitty rabbitttttt!! I'll tear off your skin, and turn you into stew!"

"That's scary -ssu ne."

From right overhead, Horun voice came.

Having turned his gaze towards her, she trampled down on Gadolas' face with her boots. It was a kick after jumping down from the ceiling.

No matter how much of a lightweight little Grasswalker girl she was, that surely turned into a fair amount of damage.

Gadolas collapsed onto the floor holding his face.

"Ngah!?"

Using 《Charm》 on the believers, she had them make this performance.

Fight against the Holy Knight—even if that sort of order was impossible, she could at least have them turn his attention away. The White Masks were ordinary people who were less than five level-wise.

If it was the current Horun, she was able to make a “request” to several people at a time.

Gadolas stood up.

So as to clear away the white smoke, he swiped his War Axe.

"You damned piece of shitttt!!"

However, at that time, Horun had already vanished from the room.

Biki biki biki The veins on Gadolas' brow rose to the surface.

"Nu.....?"

Looking around, and even looking up, she wasn't there.

HA! Realizing it, Gadolas put his hand to the back of his waist.

The bundle of keys were gone.

"That, damned shortyyyyyyyyyy!! GUGAAAAAaaaaahhhhh!!"

Gadolas' roar shook the room.

At that time—

Horun had run up the stairway, and had already returned to the upper floor.

She held the bundle of keys in her hand.

"I need to hurry up and save Diablo-san -ssu!"

'You did really well, didn't you～.'

"Ehehe.....That was my first time using 《Steal》, but as expected of level 80 -ssu ne."

'That's different from a Seeker's Skills though. You, you're actually a 《Thief》, aren't cha?'

"Ugh!?"

'They're similar but different Classes, and once you go up in level, the differences become bigger -yon. If you aren't self-aware of it, you might see some painful experiences.'

".....My Shishou was a 《Thief》. His favorite phrase was “don't become something like a Thief”And although he didn't teach me how to steal.....In the end, am I really a 《Thief》 -su ka ne?"

'Horun-chan, do you like your Shishou?'

"Of course, I do like him -ssu yo."

'Then, isn't it fine if you're the same as him? The conventional image of a Thief doesn't matter, right? Just be the kind of Thief that you wanna be.'

"Ah....."

Horun naturally let out a smile.

Babylon made a self-satisfied look.

'I went and said it—. I totally made a super good banner, didn't I? You can go ahead and cry, ya know?'

"Ah, yeah."

Part 8

She had Babylon take a look in the key room.

It seemed that Babylon could separate about five meters away from the Holy Grail. It made Horun think that she could be the strongest as a scout in a dungeon or indoors.

As expected of a Goddess of battles.

'I went and took a look for you. You're the first user to use me this roughly, ya know?'

".....I'm really grateful -ssu."

Horun lowered her voice and responded to her.

Babylon's voice could only be heard by Horun, but if her own voice that she used to reply to her were loud, she would be discovered.

'The result, wanna know it? Wanna know it? Nn fu~, if you take off your panties, then I'll tell you.'

"....."

Horun silently put her hand out the window.

The Holy Grail was exposed to the night sky.

'Hiiii~::~~::~~!! It was a joke, a joke, stop! How could you do something that asks for punishment!?'

"So?"

'He was there! The Holy Knight called Guryuun from earlier, he was reading a book at the back!'

".....Yosh."

She put the Holy Grail back to the belt on her waist.

'To threaten this Babylon-sama.....What a terrifying child!'

"Please stay quiet -ssu."

Horun put her concentration to the max, and erased the sound of her footsteps. Passing by in front of the key room, she moved on ahead.

Stone walls like that of a dungeon continued on.

—There's no one here?

She thought that there would be someone on the lookout, but there wasn't the figure of anyone around. Was it because it was the middle of the night?

Several doors were lined up.

If she hadn't heard it from Gadolas, she probably wouldn't have know where her companions were locked up.

It seemed that Diablo and the others were in the thirteenth confession room.

However, she didn't know about Lumachina's whereabouts. According to what she heard from the White Masks, she was locked up in a different room but.....

She probably had no choice but to think about that later.

While confirming the number of the doors, Horun headed deeper inside.

"It's here!"

'Wa~y!'

The characters '013' were on a heavy looking iron door that was not appropriate for something called a confession room. She rushed over to it.

"Danna, are you there -ssu ka!?"

Horun called out.

There was no response.

This time, she tried hitting the door.

As expected, there was no response.

—Could it be, saying that it was thirteen, was that a lie?

Gadolas didn't look like the shrewd type that would lie but.....

There were a lot of doors. She thought that it would be impossible to quietly visit them all in a way that the Holy Knight in the control room wouldn't notice. Sweat that rose to the surface of her forehead fell down.

"Danna!"

".....Horun, is that you?"

Rem's voice came from the other side of the iron door.

"AHH! Yes!"

".....It can't be.....Just how, in the world, did you get here? Did you get caught?"

"Various things happened....."

Inside, the voices of the others came as well.

"What? Did you say Horun?"

"Wawah! Could it be, did she come to save us!?"

They were Diablo and Shera's voices.

Horun searched the bundle of key for the one that had '013' written on it.

"Right now, I'll open up this place -ssu, so let's hurry up and run!"

She inserted the lead colored key into the keyhole.

Behind her, the voice of a child was raised.

"—Book of Helena, Fourth Passage of the Third Chapter—《Merciless Claw》"

Getting startled, Horun turned around.

Filling up her field of vision, a black tiger drew near.

"Uwah!?"

She stooped down to avoid it.

Her field of vision was turned over.

An impact ran through her, and for an instant, her breathing stopped.

Before she realized it, she was at the edge of the corridor, leaning against the wall—Horun crumbled down.

"Ah....."

She couldn't put strength into her left arm.

Looking at it—the area of her left shoulder, was deeply torn.

"AAaAah....."

Lukewarm blood, was gushing out.

'Hang in there, Horun-chan!'

Babylon, who usually had a tone like she was joking around, raised a stiff sounding voice. It made her have a real feeling that this bleeding was a dangerous amount to lose.

"Uah....."

Rather than the damage to her body, Horun felt a shock and fear from the amount of bleeding that she had never seen before, causing her to lose her composure.

"Die.....I'm going to die.....?"

Kotsu, kotsu Making the sound of small footsteps, they came walking from the end of the hallway.

"Naturally. I attacked with the intent of killing you after all."

It was the Holy Knight called Guryuun.

He was a Grasswalker and had the appearance of a child, but right now, he was wearing blue armor. A sword was hanging at his waist.

Wearing glasses, his gaze was fallen onto the book he held in his hand.

"As I thought, so you had outwitted Gadolas. He is weak-headed after all."

"U, uuu....."

"Please don't think bad of me. I have no resentment against you, but since it was Bishos' order....."

"Bi, shos."

Only now did Horun get an actual feeling of the strength of the opponents that she was confronting.

She didn't have any regrets in her actions that were done for the sake of her companions but.....Didn't she overestimate her abilities after having leveled up?

Why did she make enemies of monsters like the Holy Knights?

Her field of vision was warped by her tears.

Guryuun talked while reading his book.

"The smell of blood is in the air.....You seem to be bleeding terribly. With that injury, you surely won't last long. I will put you at ease, right now."

"Hii.....!?"

"—Book of Helena, Second Passage of the Fifth Chapter—《Starved Old Wolf》

....."

A pitch black wolf came out from his book.

At that time—

A voice came from the other side of the iron door that had '013' written on it.

"Fall in decay! 《Rust Burst》!!"

It was Diablo's Charge.

The iron door changed into a reddish brown. Countless cracks ran along the stone walls.

With a kick from inside, the door that became brittle collapsed, and broke down into very small pieces on the ground.

Diablo revealed his figure.

"I will not allow you to injure my property, any more than that.....You Holy Knight brat!"

Guryuun raised his face from his book for the first time.

He raised his glasses with his middle finger.

"Who are you calling a brat? I turn sixty this year, greenhorn—If you come out from the confession room without permission, I will kill you, got it?"

Chapter 4: The Demon King's Revival

Part 1

Having come out into the corridor, Diablo confirmed the situation. Looking from the location of the door, on the left, there was a Grasswalker Holy Knight. His name was Guryuun or something. Maybe it was a Summoned Beast, but a black wolf appeared in front of him. However, it was faintly transparent. Was it an illusion created through magic? It resembled a Summoned Beast, but since there weren't any signs of him using a crystal, the type of monster that appeared was also different. It was an ability that Diablo didn't know of. It was something that was not implemented in the MMORPG Cross Reverie. Was it called out using the book that he held in his hand? He shifted his line of sight. On the right side of the corridor, Horun was collapsed. A large amount of blood was spilling out from her collar. "U.....Uu.....Dan, na....." Blood spilled out from the corners of her mouth as well. So her injuries even reached her lungs. "Do not talk." While putting his fingers into his pouch, he headed towards Horun. —Will I make it? This would be his first time using it on someone who was on the verge of death to the point that they couldn't be allowed to move even one finger, but if it went by the game's specifications, as long as she wasn't dead, there should be an effect. The Holy Knight clicked his tongue. "You came out from the confession room, didn't you? Even though I warned you.....You'll regret that, you know?" "Just wait for a bit—I shall make you regret making an enemy of me." Diablo knelt down in front of Horun.

Taking a potion out from his pouch, he pointed it towards her lips.

So she didn't even have the energy to drink it.

If it was with this potion, there would be an effect even if he poured it on her head. That's what he should do, is what he thought but.....

Horun slightly moved her lips.

Kokun She swallowed it.

Behind him, the Holy Knight raised an irritated voice.

"Did you.....tell me, to wait? It would seem that you do not understand your own position. Enough of this, The High Chief Priest is going to be similarly executed anyway. I will dispose of you here."

The Holy Knight raised one hand.

Headed towards him—from within the confession room, clad in a green phosphorescence, a 《Squall Arrow》 flew.

"I won't let you, lay a hand on Diablo and Horun-chan!"

It was Shera's attack.

It hit the wolf.

The spot where the arrow hit waned, and its contour distorted.

However, it was hard to tell if damage was delivered to it.

The bow that Shera possessed, due to the power of Demon King Krebskrum, possessed an effect of 《Petrification》. That also was not exhibited. Maybe it was resisted, or maybe it couldn't be petrified to begin with.

The Holy Knight's awareness was turned towards Shera.

"Do you intend on getting in my way?"

".....Of course."

Next was Rem.

She threw a crystal.

"Come forth.....《Sabre Tiger》!!"

A tiger possessing sword-like fangs appeared.

Although it was a tiger, it did not have a black and yellow striped pattern, but had a shaded tiger pattern on a black background.

It was a new Summoned Beast that she acquired in Zircon Tower City.

Guryuun snorted.

"So? Although I can't let my guard down against the Magician and the Archer, you are of a lower rank."

".....Mu."

Rem's Summoned Beast, the 《Sabre Tiger》, sprang at him. Its abilities were strengthened by her equipment like the 《Layer of Secret Stone》

It struck its claws at the wolf that was in front of Guryuun.

Naturally, the opposition also made a counterattack, but the 《Sabre Tiger》 was higher in fighting strength.

As a result of several bouts of offense and defense, the wolf vanished.

Maybe because she felt that great of a response, Rem, who usually tried to continue through battles calm and collected, made the rare action of tightly gripping her fists.

".....What's wrong? Wasn't I of a lower rank?"

Guryuun turned to a different page of his book.

"Your Summoned Beast is of the Earth attribute. How many attacks of the Wind attribute can it endure? Book of Frey, First Passage of the Second Chapter—《The Arm That Runs Past》"

Once again coming from the book, this time, a green weasel appeared. It possessed a sharp front tooth.

And there were three of them.

Rem opened her eyes wide in astonishment.

The weasels that were born through magic circled around the 《Saber Tiger》, and minced it up with their teeth. It was a fairly sturdy Summoned Beast and had its abilities strengthened, but its HP was quickly shaved away.

The Summoned Beast was defeated, and transformed into a darkened crystal.

"Kuh.....So.....strong."

Rem groaned sounding mortified.

Surprisingly, the Holy Knight continued to read from his book.

Wolves appeared once again, and bears and large monkeys also appeared.

Shera fired her arrows, and Rem brought out another Summoned Beast, but the number of opponents was too much for them and ended up being overwhelmed.

Rose, who was at the back of the room, took her double-headed sword out from nowhere.

"For Master's sake, this Rose will....."

As she was highly strung with bloodlust, Rem got in front of her and obstructed

her.

".....Please wait. You couldn't be planning on taking that thing out, could you?"

"With 《Asterismos》, I will chop these imitation animals up in an instant."

".....Doing something so stupid. The floor of this place is made of wood, you know? With that thing's weight, if you do things poorly, you could fall to the lower floor, and you might even go through the bottom of the Inner Court."

Rose solidified.

Certainly, it was fine if it was just the weight of herself who was about as much as a heavily equipped cavalryman, but if even the 《Magimatic Soul》 behind her were to appear, there was a high possibility that the floor wouldn't be able to endure it.

If she were to fall from the Inner Court, even if it was Rose, she probably wouldn't be let off safely.

Reluctantly, she cut away the approaching beast with the double-headed sword she held in her hands.

"Saying heavy this and heavy that to this Rose heavy all the time.....It is aggravating."

".....It is because it is the truth."

Like a diversion, Rose waved her sword. Even as she was now, she was plenty strong but.....

The battle situation was a struggle for supremacy.

Once again, the Holy Knight Guryuun turned his gaze towards Diablo.

"While it was against my will, you have been given plenty of time. It's alright now, right?"

"Kukuku.....You, who seemed to have a hard time with the girls, plan on fighting against me?"

Diablo stood up.

He overawed his opponent.

Horun was coughing. Her complexion returned from the white that seemed like she had died from earlier to a flesh-colored tone that one could feel warmth from. It seemed that the potion was effective.

"Kehoh.....Th.....Thank you -ssu, Danna."

"To march into a base that Holy Knights were protecting all on your own, you did something rash."

"Ha, haha.....I did think that I was doing something reckless -ssu."

"Moreover, that choker—is that the 《Master and Servant Contract》?"

"....."

Horun nodded silently.

"You, do you understand? The meaning of that....."

"Of course -ssu. Danna, if you die, then I'll also die -ssu."

"Doing something so foolish.....Even after paying that much of a compensation, you're at a level where you cannot win against a Holy Knight."

"You're wrong -ssu! I acquired a strength that I would never obtain even if I used my whole life to try and get it -ssu. This happened because the opponent was too tough, and he attacked so suddenly -ssu kara!"

Diablo had no way of know just what level Horun had become.

If the person herself said that she became stronger, then there must have been a suitable effect, is what he thought but.....

—The responsibility is way too heavy!!

In his mind, the trembling wouldn't stop.

Would there happen to be a cooling-off period, is what he seriously thought.

Since the 《Master and Servant Contract》 was a function that wasn't implemented in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, he didn't know about it in detail. However, a Demon King that gets flustered over the number of his servants increasing wasn't cool either.

When the Demon King dies, the Demonic Beings drastically lose their power, and the Demonic Beasts decrease in number—The Demon King was a being that carried lives on their back.

—Even though I have a personality where I get pretty depressed when even just a game pet dies.

Horun hung her head down.

"Was it a bother -ssu ka.....?"

"Mu?"

"I, wanted to save everyone.....I didn't really think it through, and acted doing this and that.....Haha.....That was stupid, wasn't it -ssu yo ne. Danna, you could have left whenever you wanted.....You merely had an idea and only got caught."

Certainly, even though Diablo was locked up, a single iron door was too

insufficient.

It was probably because the guys of the Church also knew that that they put Holy Knights as the lookouts. Even arresting Lumachina in another room was meant to be something like taking her hostage.

Guryuun raised a low laughter at Horun's words.

"Fu, fufufu.....Far from going on a fool's errand, you brought trouble to your companions. If you hadn't come, they wouldn't have come out from the confession room. Now they are also going to be killed by me."

"U, uuu....."

"You thoughtlessly made a useless effort, and as a result, you brought a nuisance to everyone. Far from being just powerless, you were a burden. Well.....It's too late to be self-conscious about that now though."

"Ukuh!"

Horun spilled tears.

Diablo's chest tightened.

"Wrong! You are mistaken!"

His fists trembled.

The crying Horun ended up having a surprised face.

".....Eh?"

"Horun, you, you have definitely rescued me!"

Hahn—Guryuun snorted.

"In what way? You're at your limit just protecting your companions, aren't you? With what that incompetent did, the things that you gained, there isn't a single one, right?"

"I have been awakened."

"Haa?"

"This case is the High Chief Priest's problem. I was only lending my power to her—Because I was thinking that way, I ended up prioritizing Lumachina's will. However, she is too virtuous. In a struggle against a bunch that are like pit vipers and against their authority, she is way too powerless. That purity of hers is precious and should be protected, but it won't become a fighting weapon. Even though I knew that, the thing I did was.....behave like an attendant! I can only see that as me being half asleep."

"I do agree that the High Chief Priest was sheltered and ignorant of the ways of

the world, you know? Now that you've awakened, you will change the situation—it looks like that's what you're saying. Aren't you being overconfident?"

"Naturally, I can do it."

"It's impossible. And that's because, you will die here."

"Come to think of it, I made a promise to you. That I would "make you regret making an enemy of me"."

"That's a low grade delusion. I'm fed up with it."

"Kukuku....."

Diablo laughed with a low voice.

And then, once again turning to Horun, he talked.

"—You, had "thought on your own" and acted.....It was not the result but that action that had opened my eyes. I shall praise you—You have awakened the Demon King!"

"Danna....."

Gushi She wiped her eyes with her sleeve.

I truly was half asleep—is what Diablo thought as he felt ashamed of himself. It was enough where if there was an ability like 《go back by death》, then he would have liked to redo things from this morning.

A peaceful means of settlement like thrusting evidence before them and excommunicating them, that wasn't Demon King-like at all.

Thinking that the sly bunch of the Cardinal Institute hadn't prepared even one excuse, was naive. That was extremely too nice and sweet. A sweetness that was like dumping syrup on candy!

Diablo was experienced in fights where he confronted the enemy, but he was unrelated to things like power struggles. That was why he ended up losing the initiative. He would no longer hold back, and hit them with his best conceivable hand.

"I shall show you, the way a Demon King does things!"

"What Demon King? That's nothing but ridiculous buffoonery. You are a mere Chemical Element Magician."

Zokuh—His spinal muscles shivered.

His fighting spirit surged up from Guryuun's words.

Even when he was playing the MMORPG Cross Reverie, there were opponents

that would hurl similar ridicule at Diablo as he did his Demon King role play. For those mediocre fools that did not understand that elegance—"It is something that must be made apparent not with words, but with ability.....Just like this!"

Diablo turned the staff that he held in his hand, the 《Tonnerre Empereur》, toward the opponent.

Naturally, there was no way Guryuun would just keep silent and watch.

"Your preface was too long, you quack Magician—I have all sorts of preparations! Come forth, Book of Noah—From the First Chapter to the Final Chapter, all beasts!"

The beasts appeared one after another, and it looked like a black mass that possessed countless claws and fangs.

The walls, the ceiling, and the floor that got close to it, their scratches increased in an instant, they were gouged and torn to pieces, and they ended up changed into a pitiful appearance.

The mass came rushing at him.

Horun, who was at Diablo's back, raised a small scream.

"Hii!?"

"That sure is a worthless hidden talent, Holy Knight! 《Flare Burst》!!"

Since they were inside of a building, he moderately held back. It was a Fire attribute magic that was the higher version of 《Explosion》.

Niyari Guryuun curved his lips.

Receiving the attack magic, the mass of beasts raised a shriek. However, only several of the animals were burned away.

Diablo opened his eyes wide.

"Only the outer layer of beasts received damage.....!?"

Normally, it should have slaughtered a pack of beasts that were at point-blank range.

However, the magic neither spread nor pierced through, only made a direct hit on several animals as if it were absorbed by them.

He didn't understand the theory, but it was probably that sort of monster. It had a great number of lives—it had that sort of feeling.

The mass approached right before his eyes.

Guryuun shouted.

"You're naive, Magician! Get eaten by countless beasts!"

Even Rem and Shera raised voices that sounded like screams.

"Diablo!"

"N, no—!!"

—Don't make a fuss. There's no way I would lose to something of this level, right?

"《Chain Lightning》!"

It was an attack made through lightning. Once it slaughtered one, its target would move on to the enemy next to it. Since it gave damage with the speed of electricity, it looked as if several bodies were struck by the lightning attack in an instant.

The HP of each and every beast wasn't high.

Bachi bachi! Sparks took place, and, *Gya gya gya*, the shrieks of several beasts overlapped each other.

Countless scorched black beasts were scattered about in the corridor, and vanished before long. As he thought, they were things similar to Summoned Beasts made with magic.

This time, it was Guryuun's turn to open his eyes wide.

"My beasts were!?"

"Kukuku.....What's wrong? Wasn't I a quack Magician? You use a strange technique but.....It wasn't anything significant."

"Me, nothing significant?"

"That is what I said, but did you become poor of hearing?"

"I will kill you."

Guryuun kicked the floor.

A blade drew near.

Before he knew it, the sword at his waist was drawn.

—Fast!?

Unable to defend against it, Diablo reflexively stepped back. Rather than a conscious evasion, it was a movement made through daily training.

He should have evaded it—

However, it extended out from there!

It cut his chest.

"This guy!?"

So using a book to bring out beasts was a sideshow. His specialty was a speed-type Warrior!

Guryuun opened his eyes three times wider, made his veins rise to the surface, and made the white of his eyes turn red. He opened his mouth that was lined with sharp teeth and drooled saliva. He was a crazed Warrior that was the complete opposite of the intellectual features that he had up until just a little while ago.

He looked more like a beast than the beasts that came out from his book.

"Gehah! Avoided it! You avoided it, my 《Sword Smite IV》!"

"Now you've done it, old man!"

"That "neck"—It's mine!"

While shouting, a slash fell down towards his "knee".

He made small tricks.

Pretending to go above, he went below.

A childish trick like that—That was not this high leveled Holy Knight's true aim. Having experienced many battles, Diablo had already seen through his intentions. In order to have his knee avoid the side sweeping attack, he had no choice but to move even further back.

If he went back any further than this, there would no longer be any distance from Horun.

The wall was behind her, so there was no escaping. She leveled up with the 《Master and Servant Contract》, but even with that, she probably didn't have the speed to avoid the Holy Knight's attack.

Surely, the Holy Knight was aiming for Horun.

In order to stop that attack, Diablo would cover for her—That was the opponent's aim, is what he read through.

"Do not underestimate a Demon King, Holy Knight!"

Diablo didn't avoid it.

Guryuun's slash cut his right knee.

"Foolish!"

"That's what you are! 《Absolute Zero》!"

Although he had received the attack, he endured it with his mighty HP, and used a magic that required contact. It was the pattern he used to defeat the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta and the female Demonic Being that would

appear from within the shadows.

Diablo's fist, which was faster than an average Warrior, had—
cut the air.

"Wh, at.....!?"

Having deeply cut Diablo's knee, immediately following that, he had already
taken his distance.

He was faster than any opponent Diablo had fought against in this other
world!?

Guryuun drew another sword that was on his waist.

He went with a two-sword style.

"Playtime ends here. Next, I really will take that head of yours."

"Kukuku.....Good.....This is good. It would be boring if it weren't like that. More!
Bring out more, bring out everything!"

"That nonsense you're spouting, will be your last words."

He charged in once again.

That attack that was already fast as it was, became a series of attacks. It was
surely difficult just to visually keep track of them.

On top of that, Guryuun piled on even a different attack.

"—Book of Helena, all beasts from the First Chapter to the Final Chapter!!"

He carried even the mass of beasts on his back. Just how many moves would it
turn into?

Diablo curved the ends of his lips.

"I was waiting for that, Holy Knight."

"What!?"

"Thanks to that, I can fire without reserve. After all, if I were to bring out my full
power, I would surely pierce through the building."

Since Lumachina's location was unknown, he couldn't do that.

With the mass of beasts, it seemed that only the beasts on surface would
receive damage even if he used a powerful attack.

Diablo released his magic.

"《Rock Cannon》!"

What assaulted the charging in Guryuun, was a boulder that filled the corridor.
There was the time where an Earth attribute female Demonic Being hurled
small rocks at him. It was the level 70 《Sling Diamond》. This was the superior

version of that, where a gigantic boulder was shot with a considerable speed.
It was a level 130 Earth attribute Magic.

The Inner Court shook with the impact.

Even Horun, Rem, and Shera group raised screams. Rose was probably the only one who was composed.

Guryuun slashed at the gigantic stone that was flying towards him with his swords.

"HAARYAHH!!"

He was fast.

He was fast, but with swords that were only fast, he couldn't cut the boulder.

—*Gusha* (Squish)

A muffled sound was made.

The gigantic stone was aimed at the mass of beasts that was at Guryuun's back. The corpses of several crushed animals were left behind, and the effect of 《Rock Cannon》 vanished.

He disposed of the remaining beasts with 《Chain Lightning》 once again. Once the method to deal with them was known, they weren't difficult.

Guryuun collapsed onto the broken floor.

"U.....Uuu....."

"So you're still alive. You are surprisingly tough, aren't you?"

"Impossible.....Magic that could hurl a boulder that I cannot cut at me.....I have never seen that before....."

"Hmph, if this weren't such a narrow place, I would have shown you a magic that could blast away an entire town though."

".....A Demon King, huh.....I thought those words were just nonsense but..... Hiding that much ability, it's certain. So, my estimations were insufficient..... But, you guys lose."

"Hou?"

"The High Chief Priest's location, you don't know it, right? Bishos is merciless..... He's that sort of man. With her as a hostage.....he will, dispose, of you guys....."

"So you knew that guy called Bishos was a scoundrel. Why did you support him? Was it money?"

"Once you know of it—it's impossible, right? Just look at the pure and righteous fool.....Being on the side of being eaten, like that....."

"And you are on the eating side?"

"I misread your abilities.....so my life plans.....are out of order, though.....My comfortable retirement plan.....is ruined, now. Even though.....you can't win, against Bishos, anyway.....How foolish."

"Kukuku.....I said it, did I not? I am a Demon King! If you all will use the believers, then I shall use an even more vicious means than that!"

"Using, the believers? What are you saying.....Guh."

Taking a rough breath, Guryuun made an anguished expression.

"Haa.....haa.....I wanted to see your appearance as you fail, and get exposed to disgrace but.....I guess I'm at my limit....."

Diablo thought for a bit, and then made a proposal.

"Right here, I have the same HP Recovery Potion that saved Horun who was on the verge of death. If you plead for your life, then—"

"You must be joking. Such unsightly behavior.....Telling me to sip muddy water at the hour of my death? That's, why, you're, a greenhorn—Book of Helma—Final Chapter, fangs of the night, devour me."

"What!?"

One of the books that were scattered about on the floor opened up, and a black dog with a mane appeared from there. It was a hyena.

It ate Guryuun's body as if it were sucking it up.

Diablo turned his staff towards it.

"《Explosion》!!"

It was blown away.

The beast's figure vanished.

However, Guryuun's body no longer remained. The books that he read also vanished.

Horun muttered.

"Ah, did he die.....?"

"So it would seem."

Rem and Shera came out from the confession room.

".....Battles, are that sort of thing. Whether they are people of the Races or monsters, unless they are defeated, we will be the ones killed. Horun, becoming strong, is to be on the killing side—That's what it means, you know?"

"U, un."

".....It would be nice, if you understand that though."

Shera pointed to the end of the corridor.

"In any case, let's search for Lumachina-chan!"

Rose also came out from the room. The broken up floor made creaking sounds.

"Master, do you have any injuries?"

"They are just scratches. I also have potions, so there are no problems. More importantly, it looks like the floor will fall through due to your weight, Rose. Let's hurry."

What do you plan on doing, is what Rem came to ask him.

I said that I would be Demon King-like, didn't I—is what he said as he daringly smiled.

Part 2

In the sky of the late night plaza, countless lights were being lit.

What floated within that backlighting, was the figure of a man that grew horns on his head, and whose black mantle was waving.

Diablo shouted.

"Listen! You foolish people of the Races!"

With a loud voice that was amplified by magical power, he roused the sleeping masses out of bed.

Wondering "What's going on!?", the believers in the twelfth district gathered in the plaza.

A great number of White Masks of the Inner Court also clung to the windows. Turning the illumination lights that were prepared with magic at those people, Diablo confirmed that he had caught their attention.

—Uheeh, I'm getting nervous.

Actually, Diablo disliked being exposed to the public gaze. His mind would go blank when he was seen by a great number of people, and even breathing would become difficult.

A cold sweat ran down his back.

However, for the sake of this performance, he needed the attention from the

people.

His heart was making a *baku baku* sound.

—Calm down.....The current me is Diablo. The Demon King Diablo. When seen by a crowd of people, be majestic, and don't get timid! Don't falter! Laugh!

"Fuu—ha—ha—!!"

Zawa zawa The people exchanged words with each other.

He would lose if he minded it.

Diablo continued his Demon King role play.

"I, am the Demon King Diablo! Because you all have lost the truth of your faith, and desired your own destruction, I have descended upon this land!"

"D, did he say the Demon King?" "That's a lie!" "There's no way he could pass through the town's barrier!"

The believers unanimously voiced their dissent.

Them not believing him with just words went just as expected.

Diablo drank a boost-type potion in advance.

He swung his magic staff, the 《Tonnerre Empereur》.

"You damned nitwits who do not even understand who is friend or foe, there is no longer any value in any of you living! Be smashed to bits, 《Lightning Meteor》!!"

Several bolts of lightning came falling down from the jet black sky.

Lightning poured down onto the whole area.

The trees that were in the plaza, the sculptures of great people, the artistic objects.....

The places that he aimed at beforehand were all hit in succession.

Believers raised screams, moving about in confusion and trying to escape.

Other than them, there were a lot of people that got on their knees and prayed. They offered their prayers to God, hoping they themselves would be protected, and that evil would be driven away.

—The fact that there are many that rely on prayer, was just as expected. Things are going well.

Also, since there were surprisingly a lot of people that possessed fighting strength, flying-type Summoned Beasts and projectiles were fired at him. He silenced them.

"Once more—《Lightning Meteor》!!"

This time, they were dropped to the feet of the ones that were attacking him. Since there were a lot of targets, he would made a direct hit if he made a single mistake but.....

He was caught by these believers, and was nearly executed. Moreover, right now, they were currently attacking with the intent of taking his life.

Ignorance and powerlessness would not be protective reasons.

He took the trouble to try and not kill as much as possible.

However, he at least thought "if you get hit, then curse your own bad luck".

Even if he was a level 150 Magician, he was not almighty.

Having no way of knowing that Diablo was racking his brains over that, the believers on the ground, getting the wrong impression that he was performing a massacre, panicked, ran about trying to run away, and prayed to God.

The number of people that believed that the Demon King had descended upon them, it increased everytime magic was shot.

Someone came out from the Inner Court. They raised a loud voice on the balcony.

"Douraah! Don't screw with me, bastard!"

It was a Pantherian Holy Knight, and he possessed a gigantic War Axe.

If he was correct, it was the man called Gadolas that was together with Guryuun. They met when he entered the confession room.

".....Finally, huh. I was wondering what I would do if you didn't come out, you know?"

Diablo muttered.

And then, for the sake of moving the scenario forward, he shouted with a loud voice.

"Fuhahahahaha! So you thought that those ordinary soldiers called Holy Knights would be a match for me! You damned fools! If you wish to defeat a Demon King, Then bring along someone like the High Chief Priest! Or could it be, were you all relying on the Cardinal Institute!?"

"Who's an ordinary soldier, dammit!"

He was the type that didn't listen to the end of what people were saying. So even though he's a Holy Knight, even his brain was just muscles.

Gadolas swung his War Axe while shouting.

"Fall to the ground, you clown! 《Slash Axe》!!"

A gold shining blade came flying in.

His level was quite good.

However, something like a Martial Art that is fired from a long distance, it could be easily avoided. When Diablo thought that, the shining blade chased after him to the place he evaded to.

"It's tracking me!?"

"Yeah, go die!"

"Hmph.....《Sylph Shield》!"

A shield of atmosphere sprung forth.

It stopped the Martial Art.

He does some pretty clever stuff for a Pantherian—is what Diablo thought as he made a wry smile.

It looks like it would be fun to challenge him in close combat, is what he thought as his desire to experiment reared its head.

However, right now, he wasn't allowed to have even a hard fight.

A Demon King had to be overwhelming. It's because that is what instills fear into people.

Diablo recalled the Inner Court's blueprint, and predicted the position of the Holy Knight Gadolas and the stationing of the people around it.

There shouldn't be other people near him.

It should be alright even if he more or less destroyed it, is what he ended up always guessing, but he didn't have the flexibility to only expect perfection.

"Realize the power of a Demon King. —O Darkness, destroy everything!

《Darkness Rain》!!"

Jet black arrows that infinitely appeared poured down on Gadolas.

"Guwaaaaaaah!!"

He raised a scream.

—Nn? It became plainer than I thought it would be. I thought that a Demon King would have the Darkness attribute, but unlike the game where effects are scattered, with it being night, the black arrows can't be seen.

As he thought, being sparkling bright was flashier.

Diablo fired a different magic.

"《Lightning Escalation》!!"

Several light bullets of condensed magical power went flying.

With them sparkling bright and thunder resounding, it was flashy enough to make those that saw it tremble.

Gadolas was down to one knee with the 《Darkness Rain》 but,
While howling "Uoooh!", he ward off the light bullets with his War Axe.
—Ah, that idiot, don't avert them!

Hitting the Inner Court, it collapsed in a flashy way. That flashiness was unexpected.

Going "Hllllll!?", the believers raised screams as if they had received injuries on their own bodies.

It seemed that the Inner Court was that important to them.

Going "if it's like that", Diablo fired magic at a place in the Inner Court where there weren't any people.

"Fuhahahaha! Fear the Demon King! 《Lightning Arrow》!!"

Small light bullets steadily destroyed the Inner Court.

Gadolas once again came attacking.

"Stop it, you damned cowarddddd!!"

"You're too loud, you small fry! 《Flare Burst》"

"UGAAAaaaah!?"

The attack that could blow away even a Demonic Being made Gadolas scream.
—Whoops, was that too strong? But when going up against a Holy Knight, I can't really hold back, so I guess it can't be helped.

He couldn't bring out his full power like usual and end things in an instant. If he was too fast, the ordinary people probably wouldn't be able to comprehend. He needed to thoroughly show it, and drop the believers into the depths of fear.

A pure white light fell upon the body of Gadolas who was kneeling down.
It was a healing miracle.

—Oh, so his companions came out.

Other Holy Knights appeared. Moreover, there were three of them.

They were the three Holy Knights that were protecting Bishos when Diablo had visited the plaza below the Inner Court. They had drawn their swords, and had unleashed their own respective techniques.

"To damage the Inner Court, that is just asking for punishment! Who are you!?"

"Kukuku.....I am the Demon King! It is because you all have desired your own

demise that I have come to make my descent! You Holy Knights are not worth mentioning. If you wish to defeat me, you had best bring someone who is closer to God!"

—Hurry up and bring Lumachina out. Even Bishos is fine, you know? If they bring out either one, this performance can continue on to the next scene. Gadolas, who he had went to the trouble of silencing, made a full recovery. The number of Holy Knights increased, making it so that he was facing four people at once.

If each of them had at least Guryuun's level of ability, it would be bothersome but.....

He couldn't use too strong of a magic, and drop the Inner Court. He needed to be careful.

Diablo waved his staff.

"Be crushed. —《Dark Press》!!"

"Nuooooooooh!? Like hell I'll give in, super abssss!!"

Gadolas, who was pressed down on the floor, shouted.

It was there that one of the Holy Knights raised a hand over head.

"O God, save us! 《Dispel》!"

A white light erased the effect of the 《Dark Press》.

—Yosh, so that's their Healer.

Diablo determined his target.

"First, I'll start from you! 《Flare Burst》!!"

Part 3

Through several shots of magic, the fourth Holy Knight was defeated.

—They were surprisingly disappointing.

As he thought, being around level 100, even if they gathered up, it would be something like this.

The Head of the Holy Knights Baduta, and the Faltra Feudal Lord Galford were extraordinary, and the other Holy Knights didn't have the ability to fight against Diablo.

Guryuun from before was pretty strong but.....

At any rate, the Holy Knights wouldn't be standing up anymore.

The Holy Knights were the strongest Warriors that protected the Church—the believers who depended on that leaked out voices of despondency and screams.

Diablo raised a loud laughter.

"Fu—ha ha ha! What's wrong? Is that the end? So that means that it's about time that I destroy you all with my magic, doesn't it!?"

—Right here!

Thinking that, Diablo flourished his mantle, the 《Call of Darkness》.

It had an effect of bestowing 《Fear》 to all enemies.

Since this was his first time using it in this other world, he didn't know what kind of change would happen but.....

The believers wept, wailed, and despaired. It changed into a phase of pandemonium.

—The effect was a bit too strong, maybe?

Diablo pointed his magic staff towards the Inner Court. The real target was this.

He needed to make the White Mask bunch make a move.

The White Masks that watched the fighting from the window felt that they themselves were made into targets, and trembled.

They ran further inside.

Since the Inner Court was floating, they couldn't escape easily.

Something like a slow moving floating corridor, Diablo could at them all he liked.

He had no intention of really breaking it though.....

However, if the believers only trembled like this, he had no intention of waiting until morning.

Was it about time that a more powerful attack was needed?

But, if he were to make a mistake and hit Lumachina.....

While he was thinking about this and that, the believers started making an uproar.

"Ooo.....High Chief Priest-sama!"

He heard that sort of voice.

Diablo aimed the lighting made through magic, and searched for the source of the uproar.

He found it.

"Lumachina!"

He unintentionally shouted.

She appeared at the balcony where the Holy Knights were collapsed.

There were White Mask believers around her. They probably brought Lumachina out from the confession room.

She looked up at Diablo with a serious expression.

"So this, is the result of our actions, is it?"

It was a stiff voice.

Was he hated?

He did indiscriminately wreck the important Inner Court and made several Holy Knights unable to battle, so that was only natural.

Having cold eyes turned towards him from a companion was tougher than he expected, but this was the best hand that he could think of.

—The real thing starts here!

The main actors were finally assembled.

In truth, he wanted to call out the bunch of the Cardinal Institute like Bishos, but since the believers didn't take them out, it couldn't be helped.

For the time being, he decided to make a retort about that.

Doing everything that could be done, that's what a Demon King—No, that is what a Gamer does.

"Kukuku.....High Chief Priest, so you've finally come out! What about the bunch of the Cardinal Institute!? The bunch that usually act so high and mighty!?"

One of the White Masks answered Diablo's query.

"Th.....they're not here....."

His voice trembled.

"What was that?"

"Uuu.....Everyone of the Cardinal Institute, while the Holy Knight-samas were fighting against the Demon King.....Th, they, escaped the Inner Court! They, aren't here, anymore!!"

He announced that as if he were throwing up blood.

"You, is that true.....!?"

"Whether the other party is the Demon King or not, I would never tell a lie!"

Shouting that, the man took off his white mask. So he was making it clear that the responsibility for his words was his own by exposing his face.

"I was told by everyone of the Cardinal Institute that it would be useless to reveal it to others! However, I want to tell everyone! They ran away from the Inner Court! Leaving us behind.....Only they themselves separated from the Inner Court!"

The stirring from the believers, more than when Diablo fired powerful magic, more than when the Holy Knights were defeated, it had become way louder than those times.

The bunch of the Cardinal Institute were trashier than he expected.

—They're trash that even a hikikomori would draw away from them.

When the Holy Knights were still fighting, to think that they would run away in the middle of that fight.

As expected, even Diablo didn't pay attention to the bottom of the Inner Court in the middle of battle.

Someone jumped out from the window.

A large dragonfly—It was the Summoned Beast 《Dragonfly》!

The one who grabbed onto that and descended from the Inner Court was a young black haired girl—It was Rem. Rather than saying she was descending, it was speed as if she were falling. It was something the nimble her could do.

For Rem to make a move with this timing, she was most likely chasing after the bunch of the Cardinal Institute. He decided to leave that to her.

Diablo needed to continue his all-out performance.

"Kukukukukuku.....Fu—ha ha ha! Foolish! You all, while revering God, you did not even try to unravel those words, and revered despicable bastards that would abandon their companions and try to run away at a time of crisis. You have lost the genuine faith!"

"And because of that, you have descended as the Demon King, is that it?"

Lumachina came with that inquiry.

Finally, the form of 'High Chief Priest VS Demon King' was made.

Things went well up to here.

—Yo—sh, here is where I “lose” in a showy way!

Everything was part of Diablo's strategy.

Defeating the Holy Knights, a Demon King strong enough to make the Cardinal Institute run away (that part was unexpected though) attacked, and the High Chief Priest would repel that.

The believers would come to realise just who was the true top of the Church—it was that sort of plan.

Since Lumachina was straightforward, she probably wouldn't notice the aim of Diablo's performance at all.

However, if he used attack magic on those who were watching, she should risk her life to protect the surrounding people.

After that, Diablo would drop lightning or something on himself, and pretend to be defeated.

—It's perfect.

He unintentionally started singing his own praises.

In order to make Lumachina's achievement something big, there was a need to make them understand the fearsomeness of a Demon King.

Diablo hoisted up his magic staff.

"O fools who purport yourselves to be believers, you all should have noticed.....

It is not about who said it. What is important is what is being said! Believing in the suspicious words of the Cardinal Institute because it was convenient for your own benefit, you kept away from righteous words! That is mere foolishness! While saying that you revere God, to think that you would show contempt for God's will, and dye your hands in injustice!"

The believers shouted.

"You're wrong! We were deceived!""That's right, I'm not to blame!""What would the Demon King know!?"

Certainly, they were deceived.

There was room for sympathy but.....This was where he would mentally drive them into a corner. Doing that would make their feelings of gratitude stronger when they were saved.

"Kukuku.....Deception, is it. You all did not try to know the truth. Running away from the heaviest asceticism called "thinking for yourself", and being attracted by words where you could easily obtain reassurance, you supported scoundrels. If this isn't sacrilege towards God, then what is it!?"

Many of the believers hung their heads down.

They knew that Lumachina had thrust out evidence of misdeeds. In spite of that, they were incited by Bishos, and incarcerated her.

Now that the Cardinal Institute was established a bunch of scoundrels, the

emotion they harbored was regret. Knocking them down wasn't difficult.

Diablo made a declaration.

"Not closely examining the words of the ones that you live under, and entrusting the judgement to other people, that is sin you all have committed!"

A majority of the people got down on their knees and started to confess to God.

Or, they voiced out apologies to the High Chief Priest.

So the preliminary arrangements were sufficient.

Diablo turned his gaze towards Lumachina.

"I am the Demon King.....I will pass judgement upon you all who have lost your faith towards God. All of you, equally—Die."

The believers raised screams.

Lumachina came remonstrating him—or that's how it should have been.

She nodded.

"I understand."



—Hueh? Why, what did she understand?

The plan that should have been perfect, was distorted. He heard the sound of a gear getting out of place.

Lumachina started talking with a well-projected voice so that the believers could hear.

"Everyone, please listen.

Diablo-sama is—Both the Demon King, as well as Kami-sama.

We have received a judgement. We were bestowed the truth, and our piety was tested.

The result.....is unfortunately as you all have heard.....Many people committed mistakes.

And now, the time for atonement has come.

Everyone shall equally ascend to the heavens.

I shall come as well, if that will become salvation for the soul.

However, you must not despair at this judgement. There is nothing to grieve and moan for.

As for why, it is because what you have been granted is salvation.

Kami-sama loves the people.

Even if your current body is destroyed, that just means you will be given a chance to atone. It means you will be given a new life to start from pure white. It means that your soul will be purified.

Do not feel grief, but gratitude.....

The great trial, it taught us of our errors, and was there in order to make us take the correct first step.

All of the ones that are here, will be one step closer to Kami-sama's great will.

A blessing.

A blessing, to new life!

Won't you offer thanks for the start of our new life, and go forth together!"

The believers cried.

They were deeply moved and were sobbing.

Even Diablo felt like he was going to carelessly be deeply moved.

—That's wroooooong!! At this rate, I'll end up having to massacre the believers, won't I!

For the end of his Demon King role play to be a mass genocide, he couldn't laugh at that at all.

Diablo felt sweat coming out.

His breathing became rough.

What was going around inside his head was nothing but the phrase “crap crap crap crap crap”

He couldn't possibly kill them.

However, the believers were already convinced that they would be brought to salvation through Diablo killing them.

And he couldn't turn Lumachina's words into lies. If he were to do that, then the Church would lose its leader for sure this time.

The Church was one of the pillars that supported the Lifelia Kingdom.

In the west, it's said that the real Demon King was awakened—If the national polity were disordered at a time like this, even the defeat of the Races was possible.

The Races would perish due to his Demon King role play!?

He was thoroughly worried to the point that smoke could come out from his head.

Diablo, he went and—

"Fuu—ha—ha—ha—! Well done! You have done well to have arrived at my true intentions!"

laughed.

This was no longer calculated.

It was an escape through discussion. In other words, he would talk his way out! Diablo rattled on with a vigor that would not allow rebuttals.

"My true intentions, they have certainly been transmitted! I had waited for you all to accept your own sins, repent for them, and believe in my divine love! That is it! The emotions that are currently whirling about in your hearts! That, is true piety!"

—A stretch? Was it a stretch? No matter how you look at it, they figured it out, didn't they!?

Chira Diablo looked at the believers with one eye.

He had resolved himself to see cold, reproachful eyes but.....The believers were choked with tears of gratitude. Their tears came flowing out, and they unanimously gave praise to God.

"Ooo, O God! Glory be!"

All of them had clear and pure eyes.

It looked like a lie, but they completely believed it. Amazingly.

One of the believers that was overcome with emotion started to shout out a religious song. That voice spread, and then others also started to sing a song that glorified God.

Lumachina knelt down on the slanted balcony.

"Ahh, Kami-sama.....I, can feel Kami-sama's love to the point of trembling!"

—I can also feel the dangerousness of this to the point of trembling!

It was the right time.

The moment to quit was essential.

He slowly rose up to the sky.

"Take this to heart! People, should you repeat your mistake, it shall be at that time, where I shall burn this earth with a crimson hellfire!"

There was no need for him to be impatient, but if he were to be too slow, it wouldn't be very good as a performance.

This was his first time thinking so much about God.

—God's exit, at what speed should it be at!?

The boots he had equipped, the 《Empty Sky's Dance》, consumed his MP, and was exhibiting an effect of Flight Magic. That was fine, but he hadn't tested out just how much altitude he could get out of it. It was probably impossible to get as far as the clouds. Going at random, he headed east.

The dark clouds cleared away.

The obstructed moonlight brightly illuminated the plaza.

A streak of light stretched out. It looked as if it were a path that continued on to heaven.

Interlude

There were seven members of the Cardinal Institute.

They held leather bags with both hands, and ran through a subterranean tunnel.

It was an escape route that was prepared just in case something like this

happened, and it was connected with the underground waterways.

"Is it this way!?"

"Right.....No, next is left!"

"Oi, would you get ahold of yourself, we won't be let off easy if you get it wrong, you know!?"

"What was that!?"

"Stop it, this isn't the time for discord!"

The men were irritated and frenzied.

They cursed regrettably.

"What in the world was that suspicious Magician!? The Demon King he said.....
That's just absurd....."

The Head Cardinal Professor Bishos pacified them.

"Gentlemen, what are you enraged about? We have more than ten years worth of accumulated riches. It is an amount where we could live our lives just playing around, and it will be possible to come back to the royal capital. For now, let us think only of safely escaping."

"Y, yeah, that's true!"

The Cardinal Institute members nodded.

After passing through the narrow path, they came out to a place that had the sound of water.

It was the underground waterways.

Even a small boat was prepared.

Ho The men breathed sighs of relief.

"With this, we can leave the twelfth district....."

At that time, from the wall's shadow, someone went in front of the small boat's way. *Jyari* They stepped on a pebble.

Was it an ambush!?

Bishos held the lantern out, and sent the light towards them.

"Who might you be?"

"It's me -desu wa♥"

What came out from the illumination was, blue armor—It was the Holy Knight Geibalt.

Going *Ooh*, the Cardinal Institute members made a stir.

One of them stepped forward.

"Geibalt! What are you doing in a place like this!? Hurry up and drive away that strange Magician! Protecting the Inner Court is the duty of you all, isn't it!?"
Someone else also shouted at him.

"To begin with, how dare you shamelessly come in front of us at this point! Geibalt, if you had just killed Lumachina, none of this would have happened!"
The Holy Knight shrugged his shoulders.

"Fufufu.....I'm so sorry about that. That girl, she was surprisingly difficult to handle."

Bishos admonished the members of the Cardinal Institute.

"You all, now is not the time to be fussing over such trivial things. When we're making our escape from here, wouldn't borrowing the strength of a Holy Knight be very reliable?"

I see—is what the others said as they agreed with him.

Geibalt placed a hand on his cheek, and acted flirtatiously.

"Aran, would you happen to have a new request for me?"

"It is a fact that you failed your previous request. I would like to recover the losses you know?"

"How much might it be? The price of your lives."

The people of the Cardinal Institute lost their temper once again, but Bishos calmed them with one hand.

"There is no time. Why don't we just pay your asking price.....However, it will be upon completion."

"How magnanimous! I don't hate clients who are generous -wa!"

"Umu."

Going *Nfufu.....*, Geibalt made a sarcastic laugh.

"But, you know, I've already retired from being a Holy Knight -no yoo~, so sorry, 'kay?"

The people of the Cardinal Institute winced at those words.

Bishos wrinkled his brow.

"And what do you mean by that?"

"It means that you all are already done for. You've failed -wa nee, "that person" is angry, you know?"

Going "That person?", the people of the Cardinal Institute tilted their heads.
Only Bishos bit down his back teeth.

"Not yet.....I, still....."

"You've thoroughly sucked on the sweet juices, haven't you. Making use of that position, you devoted yourself to the limits of luxury, and went into self-indulgence. That's right, you indulged yourself to the point that it was repulsive, didn't you -wa ne?"

"And the appropriate amount of money was handed over!"

"You've learned too much -no yo."

".....!!"

Bishos gulped. He grabbed the sleeve of one of the Cardinal Institute members that was next to him.

"Eh?"

Bishos thrust that man, who raised an idiotic voice, towards Geibalt.

At the same time, he ran back to the subterranean tunnel that they came out from.

He ran away.

We were made into sacrificial stones—is what the people of the Cardinal Institute realized at this late point in time and started to panic.

They who had received concessions for many years had become too dim-witted.

Geibalt spat out.

"For me, men with smelly breath, are unforgivable -yo nee."

A wall of the subterranean tunnel collapsed.

A long and narrow worm came rushing out.

Buchi buchi buchi..... A sound like rubber being torn to pieces resounded in the narrow airspace. And then, *byuu*, blood became a fountain.

The people of the Cardinal Institute who ended up losing everything from the neck up, collapsed to the ground.

Six headless corpses.

And then, from a place that was a little back in the subterranean tunnel, a scream was raised.

"Ugaaaah!?"

Bishos had his shoulder bitten by a worm, and was grappling with it.

Geibalt thought that it was surprising.

"Arara, to not be killed by my 《Snipe Worm》 with one attack, you're

surprisingly pretty good, aren't you."

"P, please! Save me! If, if it's money, I have some! I'll give you as much as you want! Twice as much as that person! I'll pay three times as much!"

"Hoho—n, would that be true?"

When he snapped his fingers, the 《Snipe Worm》 returned to being a crystal.

While bleeding from his shoulder, Bishos raised a dry laughter.

"Ha, haha.....It isn't bad, right? If you let me go, I promise you a reward where you can live just playing around for your whole life."

"You know, I have nothing but that -no ne. It's boring -da wa."

"Eh? But....."

"Above all, there's already no way of saving you, you know -wa yo? So you can't even see what's happened to you -no nee."

"Boe?"

Bishos lowered his gaze.

A worm that pierced the center of his body from his back had sprouted out.

When the worm opened its mouth, in there, his own internal organs were—

"G, give that backkkkkk—!?"

That became the death throes of the Head Cardinal Professor Bishos who stole much from the believers.

Pachi pachi pachi pachi..... A half-hearted applause was made.

A different person slowly raised their body from the small boat that floated on the waterway.

"That was quite the performance. As expected of a Holy Knight."

That man was tall and muscular to the point that it was hard to believe he was a Human.

Without matching his muscular body, his face had an intellectual impression.

His black hair was in a seven three hairstyle, and he wore black-rimmed glasses.

Geibalt curved his lips.

""Former", right? Men who fuss over the past aren't popular, you know -wa yo?"

"I see, pardon me. Allow me to welcome you once again. Welcome, to our 《Royal Palace Chivalric Order》!"

The man had the name of Maximum Abrams.

"I sure am happy to be observed by the commander -waa."

"I shall introduce you to our companions later.....But, before that, it might be good to do a makeover of your armor."

"That's true.....Nn? Could I have you wait for a moment."

He noticed that footsteps were coming from the subterranean tunnel.

The one that came, was a young Pantherian girl. She had rare black hair, and a small build like that of a child.

If he remembered correctly, she was Diablo's companion.

—She was called Rem or something.

She discovered the corpses of the bunch of the Cardinal Institute, and her eyes went wide open.

"Wha.....They're dead!?"

"Fufufu, you did well to find them -wa ne. Even though it had become quite the maze."

".....I would with the smell of blood being this strong.....You are, the Holy Knight Geibalt, aren't you. What happened here?"

She did not carelessly get closer. Since she knew that he used worm Summoned Beasts, she also took some distance from the walls, and made a sink in her knees so that she immediately jump away from the ground.

As expected of a high level Adventurer.

Geibalt also didn't think of trying to shorten their distance. Looking at that equipment of hers, he could tell that Rem didn't stay as weak as she was when they fought before.

"Ufufu.....I'm, no longer a Holy Knight -no yoo."

".....Did you double-cross them?"

"Ara, ew, you sure do say it in a really unpleasant way -wa ne."

".....Then why did you kill them? Last time we talked, you didn't have any signs of harboring resentment for the Cardinal Institute. In that case, at your new employer's inclination—you silenced them."

"You, although you're smart, you're dumb. Do you want to die?"

"Uu!?"

Rem put herself on guard. She clutched a crystal in her left hand.

In this situation where it seemed like it would turn into a fight at any moment—Abrams called out from Geibalt's back.

"You don't need to mind her. The words of a demi-human Adventurer, no one

would take them seriously."

"Ara, is that so?"

"I don't want to confront a Magician that could capitulate the Inner Court all by himself after all."

"Might those be your true feelings?"

"Of course they are my true feelings. It is better to have few enemies, and many allies."

"I see. Well, I'm also happy going with that -wa. I have a debt to this girl.....Or rather, to the High Chief Priest after all."

Geibalt took out an iron key from the accessory case on his belt. It had '714' written on it.

Showing it to Rem, he placed it at his feet.

"I'll give it to you."

".....Is that.....A confession room key?"

"You have some good judgment -wa nee. It's a small present for Lumachina-chan. If she's lucky, I think she still might be alive -wa."

"Eh?"

"The Holy Knight Toria.....Haven't you heard that name?"

That was the name of the female Holy Knight that assisted Lumachina when she was escaping from the Church.

To the Church when the Cardinal Institute was in control, she was a traitor, and was imprisoned but.....

At this point, she could be called the only "genuine" Holy Knight.

It was because Toria went against the Cardinal Institute in accordance with her piety and tried to set Lumachina free that Lumachina had met with Diablo, and brought about today's situation.

Rem's eyes went round.

"Is she alive!?"

"Probably♥ Well then, I'll be going. You won't stop me, will you?"

".....I, do not have the strength to do that after all."

"Fufufu.....You know, you restrain yourself too much -no yoo. See ya!"

Geibalt got on board the small boat that was floating on the waterway.

The large man that was together with him unfastened the mooring rope. He rowed the oars.

"Now then, let's go back! The mission was accomplished, and my number of excellent subordinates increased. Even if I put it modestly, today was perfect."

"Ahan, isn't this like a date on a boat? Won•der•ful!"

"Was I a bit.....too quick to say that?"

With Geibalt, who was wriggling his body, and the giant man, who made a conflicted-looking expression, on board, the small boat went down the waterway.

Epilogue

Part 1

Diablo opened his eyes.

He was in his own room at the high class inn, the 《Phoenix House》—on top of his bed. Even the cloth that went up to the ceiling had delicate embroidery applied to it.

He had drank an MP Recovery Potion, so he did not particularly have a corporeal sense of fatigue.

Was what he was vaguely feeling, something like burnout syndrome?
—I sure am hungry.

He got out of bed with hunger as the reason.

I've changed a bit from when I was a Gamer if I do say so myself, is what he thought. In the past, he wouldn't have moved even if he was hungry.

Rather, he couldn't move. Only when he was shooed away by a game event with a time limit would he finally move.

When he opened the thick curtains, the area outside the window had become a madder red.

"Oou, so it's already evening....."

After the fight at the Inner Court—

Diablo descended at the plaza in front of the eastern gate of the third district, and walked back to the inn from there.

He nervously waited for about three hours.

After seven o'clock, Rem, Shera, Horun, and Rose safely returned, and he was finally able to feel relieved.

Taking a breakfast that seemed like a supper, and then lying down on his bed.....

It was now.

The wall mounted clock told him that he had slept for close to half a day.

He rung the bell that was installed in the room.

Before long, an inn employee came along. It was a courteous female Dwarf.

"You had called, dear guest?"

"Umu, I would like to request a meal and a bath. Also, what are the others doing?"

"I was entrusted with this."

A message was written on stationery.

It seemed that Rem went to make a report to Alicia. She's conscientious as always.

Shera took Horun along and went to go shopping in town. So even though so much stuff had happened, she went to go sightseeing the next day. Her ability to go at her own pace is amazing!

Rose was on standby in her own room.

"There is no need for meals. Be sure to convey anything that happens to me. Be sure to not wake Diablo up." It seems that is what she asked the employee to do.

Although there were some unprecedented things, I'm grateful for their usual consideration, is what he thought.

At any rate, it didn't seem like there were any particular problems.

The Dwarf employee bowed her head.

"We shall prepare your meal and your bath immediately."

"Make it hot water."

It was a high class inn, so there was a table for meal-use in every room and, moreover, they even had bathtubs.

There was a need to have them bring with regular water or hot water, but they could enter the bath at any time.

When he lived in his former world, he didn't like baths. Since he couldn't play the game during that time, he thought of it as a waste of time and couldn't stand it.

Now, it was a supreme pleasure.

Come to think of it, he had heard stories of hot springs in Faltra City.

—It might not be that bad to try going to a hot spring.

He didn't know the details, but since the problem with the Church seemed to be finished, there was probably nothing Diablo could do anymore.

He did reveal himself as the Demon King as well as God after all, so he couldn't get close to the Church. On the contrary, it was dangerous to even stay in the

royal capital. If he were found by a believer, as for what would happen.....He had nothing but premonitions that he would fall into a troublesome situation. Diablo had a meal alone for the first time in a while. There was freshly baked bread, tender roast beef, and crisp pickled vegetables. In addition, there was grilled fish and was accompanied by fruits. It was delicious. However, it was dull being alone. Should he have called Rose? However, she did not have normal meals. He felt bad about having her just keep him company for this. —To think that I would feel that a solitary meal would be lonely. Even though he thought “Being carefree was the best!” He then entered the bath that the employee prepared while he was having his meal. To soak in warm water, it was his first time do so since he came to this other world. The core of his body was warmed up. It was as if his fatigue melted in the hot water. "Ahh, this is the best....." At that time, door was humbly knocked on. ".....Diablo, are you awake?" It was Rem. He replied from the bathroom. "Umu, you may enter!" She opened the door. "Excuse me." "Over here. Do you have some sort of hurried business?" "No, I am not in a hurry.....Shera and Horun, they seem to still be shopping, right?" "Umu." Rem came to the bathroom. "Ah.....So you were bathing in cold water." "It's a bath. Are you not used to bathtubs? You should try entering as well. This is something good." Of course, Diablo said that with the meaning of “you should have a bath prepared in your own room”.

Even so, standing stock still, Rem blushed.

".....I, I understand. I also.....was thinking that, I would like to wash my sweat off."

Fua?

Rem started taking her clothes off.

—Awawa!?

He was flustered and thought about trying to stop her, but that was probably bad.

Not limited to Pantherians, the common people of this other world have a custom of bathing in cold water in lakes and rivers. Washing away sweat with companions wasn't rare.

Rem and Shera had bathed in cold water before after all.

Right now, pointing out her misunderstanding would be equivalent to saying "I don't want to go in together with you", so in other words, it would be like saying that Rem was not a companion and rejecting her.

It would be great if he could somehow skillfully say it in a way that wouldn't hurt her but.....

Just as always, words like that didn't come out.

While he was thinking, Rem had taken off her clothes.

She covered her small chest with both of her hands.

And then, for her lower part, her panther tail coiled around and covered it.

—Rather, isn't doing it like that even more incredible!?

Diablo's heart had a sudden rise in its pulse rate.

Rem winced.

"U, um.....When you stare at me that much, it's a bit embarrassing."

"I-I-I-I see!"

Diablo tore his gaze away. He leaned his back on the bathtub.

Rem got in.

She really did get in together with him.....

She entered turning her back towards Diablo.

So she thought that facing each other would be embarrassing.

Certainly, if they were like this, all he could see would be things like the back of her head, her slender nape, and her delicate shoulders.

If she had volume to her chest, it might have been different, but he couldn't see

that.

But however!

Their skin touched.

Rem's butt was set down in between Diablo's legs. And then, her slender, small, and soft-looking body was settled down in between his arms.

In front of his eyes, her kitten-like panther ears moved with a twitch, and the drips on the hair ends of them flew off.

".....Um, was it really not a bother?"

"O-o-of course nyot!"

"Eh?"

"Ahem! Of course not!"

".....Thank goodness."

Rem brought her body closer.

She leaned her small back on Diablo's chest. Her butt touched the inner part of his legs.

Soft.

It felt like his sense of reason would fly away.

When Rem made a glancing look his way, her cheeks were bright red.

Although it was awkward, she expressed a smile looking happy.

".....Ehe.....I entered together with you."

"O, ou."

—S, so cute.

So she was a girl who could make this kind of expression. He was together with her often, but he felt like this was his first time seeing it.

"Ahn....."

Rem leaked out a nasally voice.

Going "Eh?", he was bewildered.

When he realized it, Diablo had tried to hug her with both of his arms.

"Wait.....I.....!?"

".....Nn.....This hot water, it certainly, does feel good."

Rem inclined her head.

She leaned it on Diablo's arm.

Thank goodness she didn't get mad.

—Just when I thought my sense of reason was going to fly away, it had flown

long ago! I don't think I understand what is being said, but when a small, young cat-eared girl smiles at me, it can't be helped, right!

Unfortunately, it seemed that Diablo's sense of reason was in the middle of a vacation.

He tried to hug Rem tightly.

"Hafuu.....Um.....?"

"Ah, no, that's to say....."

".....Diablo, something is, hitting my back."

"EH!?"

".....Something hard."

"C, could it be a horn?"

".....Could it, really be that?"

Rem squirmed about and moved her butt.

When he thought that it might be because she was uncomfortable—
Something wrapped around it.

"ツ!?"

He involuntarily swallowed his breath by the unknown stimulus.

—This is, could it be, her tail!?

Rem's panther tail wrapped around Diablo's "horn".

Zoku zoku The muscles along his spine trembled.

"Uu, oo."

"Nn.....fu....."

Rem leaked out a sigh.

"Ou, oou....."

Splishing and splashing, the bathtub's water surface swayed.

Maybe because they were feeling dizzy from the long bath, the two of them had not just their faces but their whole bodies turn red.

Diablo unintentionally hugged Rem's body close.

Grabbing her bulged chest, he stimulated the tips.

"AH!?"



"Oh, cra....."

A shock ran through the muscles along Diablo's spine.

Rem covered her own mouth with both hands, and controlled her own heavy breathing.

"ツ.....Nnnn.....ツ!"

And then, within his arms, she repeatedly convulsed.

—Pantherians, they sure are incredible.....

Bakin! The sound of metal breaking was made. It came from the room's foyer!

Both Diablo and Rem went *Biku!* and were surprised.

Mishi, mishi There was some creaking, and someone was approaching the bathroom.

Rem's shoulders trembled.

".....ツ!?"

In a way different from just a little while ago, this was probably her being frightened.

A voice came from the room.

"Master, there is a visitor."

"O, ou.....So it's you, Rose. Erm.....I seemed to, have heard a really incredible sound though?"

"I am terribly sorry. Since I had sensed an unsettling presence, I failed in adjusting the power of my right hand. I seemed to have destroyed the lock."

Rem quivered like a kitten that was in front of a stray dog.

Certainly, if Rose had seen the act from a little while ago.....He kind of didn't want to imagine it.

Diablo told Rose.

"Because I will be preparing myself, lead them to the common room! Rose, you wait there as well."

"This Rose will assist you, Master."

"Seriously?.....Ah, no.....Do not treat me like a suckling child. I have no problem dressing myself without the help of someone else!"

".....I am terribly sorry. I shall await your orders in the common room."

Rose left.

Going *Fuu—*, Diablo breathed a sigh.

Rem got out from the bathtub. Warm water fell down from her slightly

reddened skin. Drops dripped from her long, black hair.

Seeing her long and narrow tail, Diablo unconsciously blushed.

She breathed a sigh.

".....I thought my heart was going to stop."

"Do you find Rose scary?"

".....Even I am an Adventurer. No matter how strong she is, I will not be afraid of her. Merely, if she were to see me in a place like this.....As expected, it's embarrassing."

"I, I see."

".....Also.....It's because I wanted to keep this a secret between just the two of us."

After saying that, as if to gloss over her shyness, Rem hurriedly got out of the bathroom.

Diablo solidified.

"....."

She, with both her wet skin and wet hair as they were, put on her clothes.

Her cheeks bright red, she glared at his direction.

".....I, do not want to destroy the peace of this party. So this sort of thing, I find it questionable."

"Th, that's, true."

"But.....Um.....I was, happy.....And it felt good....."

The last part was said in a small voice that sounded like it would disappear.

Saying only that, Rem turned her back towards him.

Leaving no sounds of footsteps, she had most likely gone out from the room.

Part 2

Diablo changed into his clothes and went to the common room.

Rem, Rose, and the guest were waiting.

And then, Shera and Horun had also just returned.

The guest, was a person that they were very familiar with. Rather, it even felt like it would only be natural for them to still be together with them.

"Thank you very much for last night, Diablo-sama."

It was Lumachina.

Diablo found it unexpected.

"Is it alright for you to be in this sort of place? How are things at the Church?"

"Of course, there is a huge mound of things to do but.....Diablo-sama, there is no way I could invite you to the twelfth district, but having said that, I thought that everyone would go off somewhere once the day ended."

Rem nodded.

".....We don't have anymore business in the royal capital after all."

"Eh—!? Even though there are so many stores we haven't gone to yet!?"

Shera unhappily said that.

Horun made a wry smile.

The girls had bought quite a lot of things, such as clothes, trinkets, and food, within a short amount of time.

They had received a large reward in Zircon Tower City, but at this rate, it seemed like it would run out soon.

Rem slapped her with an assertion.

".....And what will you if we are discovered by the believers and they learn about Diablo!?"

"Uuu—"

Lumachina smiled.

"I believe that will be alright."

".....You're saying something so optimistic again."

"It is because I have told the believers that Diablo-sama is conducting himself as an Adventurer."

"What did you say!?"

"Everyone looked like they had consented to it very well. Even in the legends, there are many episodes where "Kami-sama becomes a person of the Races or an animal and comes to look at our state of affairs"."

".....Is that really allowed?"

Rem held her head in her hands.

It really helped that they did not have to run from place to place away from the believers.

However, there was a different problem.

If he was discovered in town, would he be treated as God? Or as the Demon King?

—Either way would be a pain, wouldn't it.

There is no change in the plan of quickly leaving the royal capital—is what Diablo announced to everyone.

Lumachina nodded.

"I thought, that you might say that. It isn't much, but please add this to your travelling expenses."

Having a leather bag handed to her, Rem checked the content.

".....This much!?"

"I am terribly sorry. As it was misappropriated by the Cardinal Institute, the Church's financial situation is on the verge of bankruptcy. Even the money entrusted to the Church from the people was embezzled.....For a while, there will be almost no budget that I can use freely."

".....No, this is plenty."

Shera peeked into the leather bag that Rem held and her eyes went round.

Horun extended her hand to it and, *peshi*, had it hit by Rem.

Lumachina reported her current situation.

"Although there were injured people among the believers, there were no casualties.....Diablo-sama, I really must give you my thanks."

"I, I see! Well, as I am a Demon King, the lives of people of the Races don't really matter to me though!"

Diablo folded his arms to hide his embarrassment, and reclined into the sofa.

Since they had been together for quite a long time, he had a hunch that his Demon King role play had already been seen through but.....

Since he couldn't have a conversation without putting up this kind of character, it couldn't be helped.

Rem and the others also patted their chests in relief. Only Rose didn't have signs of caring about it as usual though.

Lumachina continued her report.

"The restoration work on the Inner Court has immediately begun. To the general public, it was struck by large-scale lightning—that is what was announced. With help also coming from outside of the twelfth district, and fund-raising activities being performed, I can feel the piety of the people and

their feelings of mutual aid."

"Fumu.....Does it look like it can be repaired?"

As the perpetrator who flashily destroyed it, Diablo felt a considerable amount of responsibility.

Lumachina assured him.

"It will definitely be repaired."

"Umu."

He felt a bit relieved.

"Also, the matter about the members of the Cardinal Institute having died in the subterranean tunnel was announced to the public. However, Rem-san's testimony will be covered up."

".....It is because I am a demi-human and an Adventurer, isn't it."

"No, it is not for that sort of reason. As the Church is right now, it does not have the flexibility to confront royal authority. Although they were great sinners, for the 《Royal Palace Chivalric Order》 to kill very important people without a trial.....That will surely become a problem."

".....I see."

"Rem-san, going by your story, it seems that Bishos had a connection with the royal authority faction. And because of that, they killed him to silence him."

".....Yes."

"After having misappropriated the Church, they were able to embezzle things like donations but.....Where did the funds in order to misappropriate the Church come from to begin with? You can see the answer, can't you."

".....This is surprising. I had thought that you had a personality that wouldn't be mindful of that sort of thing."

Lumachina made a wry smile at Rem's words.

"To be honest, I am still not very good with it. But, I need to get ahold of things.....It's because if something similar were to happen, the earth will definitely burn at that time after all."

After thinking "What is up with that?" and tilting his head, Diablo remembered that it was something he blurted out in his exit performance. He only tried saying something that sounded God-like but.....

As he thought, Lumachina believes him too much.

Although I feel anxious about it, since she seemed to be working hard in her

own way, that purity is also one of her good points, is what Diablo thought.

"Ahh, have the Holy Knights been dealt with?"

"Whether they have committed crimes, and if they have, just what kind of crimes were they? We will be investigating that from now on."

"Certainly, there were some outrageous villains, but that does not guarantee that all of the Holy Knights were villains."

"Yes."

"Didn't the believers emotionally desire to execute them?"

"That's, well.....But, it was because they were taught by Diablo-sama—When receiving a shock, people's thoughts become extreme. They would try to give excessive punishment—That is what you are saying, correct?"

Diablo nodded.

That is probably why she had become cautious with disposing of them.

That was all for the report in regards to the Church.

However, Lumachina's story instead became momentous from here.

"It would seem that the Greenwood King of the Elves has died."

"What did you say!?"

Diablo reflexively half rose to his feet.

Shera's knees trembled.

"No way....."

The suzerain state of the Elves—The Greenwood Kingdom was Shera's homeland. And the King of that place was, in other words, her father.

Lumachina talked looking apologetic.

"I have also confirmed it several times but, coming from several routes.....They say that it had happened about one week ago."

"Th, that can't be!?"

Fura Shera looked like she was about to collapse.

Rem hurriedly supported her shoulders.

".....ツ"

It seemed that even for her, with her sagaciousness, she couldn't immediately figure how just how she should call out to her.

Horun was also speechless.

Diablo asked a question to Shera.

"It seems that the Greenwood King sired three children, correct? However, the

two older brothers have died, and there are no longer any children other than you. If it is hereditary, you will either succeed the country.....Or, you will accept one who will become king as your husband but.....What do you think of that?" Shera shook her head left and right.

"I don't know! Otou-san.....dying.....I hadn't thought of that at all!"

Boro boro She burst into tears.

Rem nodded.

"Elves do have long lives after all. Something like family dying, I am sure that it's harder for you than all of the other races."

Saying that, she had Shera sit down on the sofa.

Horun nestled close to her.

"I also, cried a lot -ssu. When my real Otou-san and Okaa-san disappeared, and when my Shishou died....."

"Horun-chan....."

Maybe because she remembered it all, even Horun shed tears.

Rem also cried while muffling her voice. Come to think of it, she had also lost both of her parents—She had told him before.

Diablo placed a hand on Lumachina's shoulder.

"We made you take on a difficult duty."

"No....."

She wiped her eyes.

"Is there any other information that you acquired?"

"Let's see.....As expected, since Princess Shera, the sole heir to the throne, is missing, it has become a problem as to who will be the successor....."

"Although they are Elves, it's a contest for the throne huh."

As one would expect, with Shera's position, ignoring the situation would be way too irresponsible. Even if she has run away from home, if done poorly, there will be a war that divides the country.

That can't be allowed to happen.

It was probably best to talk about it after the crying Shera has calmed down—is what Diablo thought.

However, his feelings became certain.

—We'll head to the Greenwood Kingdom!

Seeing Diablo's profile, Lumachina nodded.

"As I thought, you (anata-sama) are....."

"What is it?"

"Diablo-sama, in truth, I had intended on asking you to stay in these lands. That I would like for you to be at our side.....But, I now have a firm belief that you are not an ally that should be confined in this small royal capital or in the even smaller Inner Court. For you will save the even wider world."

"I have no intentions of that, I merely....."

—I, what?

What did he want to do?

Be a shut-in NEET?

In that case, whether it was at Lamnites' side, or Lumachina's side, he could probably do it.

What were his reasons for fighting against the large army of Demonic Beings or the Holy Knights? What did he want to do in this other world?

Diablo turned his eyes to Shera and the others.

His chest ached from their crying faces.

His own objective.....

Something like that, to he himself who was summoned to this other world for some unknown reason, it was still unknown.

However, there was something that was clear to him.

—I don't want Shera and the others to cry, I think.

He wanted them to smile.

Although it couldn't be helped right now, he wanted to make it so that the sad things wouldn't continue.

However, he did not expressly put those feelings into words. For now, not yet.....

In exchange, he asked a question about something that bothered him.

"Lumachina.....Do you believe in me?"

"Of course."

"Then, if I said "I am actually not Kami-sama", would you believe me?"

"Diablo-sama, if you are the one saying it, then you are surely not Kami-sama. However, "belief" is not a feeling that occurs towards a title. Rather, wouldn't the feeling that I currently bear towards you be called "faith"?"

She answered without hesitation.

It were as if she had spent much time wondering that herself.

From outside the window, the Church bells that announced the changing of the hour resounded.

Afterword

Thank you very much for reading the sixth volume of 'Isekai Maou to Shoukan Shoujo no Dorei Majutsu'.

This is the author, Murasaki Yukiya.

The Demon King VS the Church Arc has concluded with this volume. It hasn't only been Diablo's activities, even the highlight scenes of the party members have increased. Horun in particular. The plot for her wasn't planned to have progressed this rapidly, but after trying to write it out, a strange goddess came out.....It was because of that, wasn't it. Babylon is a character with strong peculiarities, but what did you think of her? This volume had a bit more of a comedic development, but I had intended on trying to put in a fairly heavy theme. I would be blessed if you were able to enjoy it.

The next volume will be the Elf Kingdom Arc. Also, if there is a demand for it, I am thinking of also putting in scenes that were omitted in this volume. Things like Edelgart's part-time job, and Krum VS Rose.....?

This is some advertisement—The greatly popular third volume of the comic by means of Fukuda Naoto-sensei has been published at the same time as this book. The serialization is in the WEB manga Niconico Seiga 'Wednesday Series'! Volume 11 of 'Altina the Sword Princess' (Famitsu Bunko), which was on a long absence, has been published at the same time as this book.

Also, 'The Millennium War, The White Empire Arc' (Famitsu Bunko) is planned to be published at the end of October. It's a novelization of a game, but even if you have not played it, since I think you can enjoy it as a fantasy war chronicle, I hope you could at least take a look at the beginning of it. Please treat it well.

Thanks—

Tsurusaki Takahiro-sensei, thank you very much for the wonderful illustration as

always! While I was talking with sensei, Horun's story was stretched out.
Designer from Afterglow, Ooishi-sama, thank you very much for going as far as
the map of the royal capital.
Shouji-sama who is in charge of editing, thank you very much this time as well.
Thanks to you, this has become a book like this.
Everyone of the Kodansha Lightnovel Bunko Editorial Department and people of
the staff. Family and friends that gave me support.
And then, I give my highest level of gratitude to the dear readers that read this.
Thank you very much!

Murasaki Yukiya
